IN THE FOUR SECTION SATURDAY TIMES



CRICKET
Five more days to play 1st XI, p34
What make Tonya Harding tick, p38



WEEKEND
Sex rules at public schools
PLUS: FREE Classical CD or cassette, p11



MONEY
Why the fixed rate mortgage is the future, p25
How to cut your phone bill, p27

SATURDAY EDITION
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THE TIMES

No. 64,877 SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12 1994

Health premiums may fall by 20%

Consultants' overcharging to be halted

BY JEREMY LAURENCE AND BILL FROST

■ The BMA is accused of running a cartel. Now the withdrawal of its private surgery tariff is likely to drive down specialists' fees and insurance premiums

THE cost of private medicine is set to fall after senior consultants and the British Medical Association were ordered yesterday to end a cartel that kept prices high against the interests of the paying public. One healthcare firm said that insurance premiums could fall by 20 per cent.

The prospect of cheaper health care emerged as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission demanded the withdrawal of a list of prices for private operations published by the BMA and followed by thousands of surgeons. The tariff mirrors almost exactly the maximum levels of cover offered by the private health insurers Bupa.

The commission found that there was a "complex monopoly" in private health which promoted the BMA's position as the consultants' principal trade union, helping them to earn more than they would otherwise have done. But it decided that the Bupa list was not against the public interest because Bupa had rivals in the market and an interest in keeping prices down.

The BMA tariff covers more than 1,500 procedures, from removal of a wisdom tooth for £310 to a liver transplant that would cost £5,825 plus £2,330 for the anaesthetist. Average fees are 60 per cent higher than in America and 170 per cent higher than in France.

About 12,000 of Britain's 19,000 consultants undertake some private work and the top 1,200 earn about £200,000 a year in addition to their health service salaries. About 3,400 set their fees according to the BMA guidelines rather than competing openly in the market, the commission found, while 6,600 followed the Bupa list. Specialists' fees account for about a third of private medical care costs.

Neil Hamilton, the corporate affairs minister, yesterday gave the report the Government's full backing, saying the guidelines allowed consultants to charge higher fees than would otherwise be possible. He said he had asked Sir Bryan Carsberg, the Director-General of Fair Trading, to ensure that the BMA complied with the recommendations and called for doctors to make sure that patients had a better idea of different consultants' charges.

The BMA described the commission's findings as perverse, but said publication and distribution of the guidelines would cease immediately. "We strongly dispute the MMC's conclusion that the BMA is part of a complex monopoly or that the existence of the guidelines is against the public interest. Both the medical profession and patients have seen them as a helpful source of information on the likely costs of treatment in the private health sector," the association said.

The commission also said that patients must be given as much detail as possible on what charges were likely to be before treatment took place, and it urged that a code of practice be introduced. The BMA accepted that consultants should make their charges known to patients at the earliest opportunity and said it would consider how they could make their fees known to local GPs.

Bupa, which aims to double its three million policyholders in the next five years, said the commission's report had endorsed its business methods. A spokesman said it was fair, reasonable and in the best interests of expanding the private health benefits sector. "We have a constraining effect on fees and we are able to ensure that we are acting in the best interests of members."

Tim Baker, commercial director of Norwich Union Healthcare, also welcomed the report and said it would provide insurers other than Bupa with an opportunity to drive down the price of private care.

"Private health insurance premiums could fall by 20 per cent over the medium term," he said. "Bupa is not such a dominant force as it was and consultants are becoming increasingly realistic about the fees they charge."

Mr Baker added that the creation of a new grade of health service specialist from next year would increase the number of doctors available for private practice and cut rates further.

The Consumers' Association also endorsed the report, saying it confirmed that higher consultants' fees were making the cost of private health care higher than necessary. "If we are to have a market in health care, let's at least be confident that it's a market that isn't rigged." Fees for a common private operation in London could vary by about 84 per cent, so patients should compare prices and learn to haggle.

Consultants who do private work are among the best paid occupational groups in Britain, beaten only by senior barristers and main board executives of private companies.

FEES GUIDELINES ON SURGERY FEES

Liver transplant	£5,825
Hip replacement	£775
Removal of thrombus from vein	£600
Caesarean section delivery	£580
Hernia operation	£320
Removal of haemorrhoids	£295
Stripping of varicose vein	£285
Examination of joint under anaesthetic	£90

Anaesthetists' fees for surgery are extra — ranging from £2,330 for liver transplant to £140 for removal of haemorrhoids.

UN envoy to decide on strikes

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

BOUTROS Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, said last night that he had delegated authority to his special representative in Yugoslavia to launch a first air strike against gun positions around Sarajevo.

This gives the envoy, Yasushi Akashi, who has now developed a close working relationship with Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander in Bosnia, much broader powers than announced two weeks ago. The link between the two will make any authorisation of air strikes more clear cut.

President Clinton telephoned President Yeltsin yesterday, but the leaders evidently failed to resolve completely their differences over the ultimatum. A Kremlin statement said that all questions concerning Bosnia, should be undertaken only by the Security Council.

Guns handed in, page 15
Leading article, page 17

INDEX

Births, marriages, deaths 18
Crossword 20
Leading articles 17
Obituaries 19
Weather 20

WEEKEND

Arts 16
Gardening 14
Out of Town 18

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ADRIAN BROOKS

Susan Hampshire, who has championed the cause of dyslexia sufferers, was given an honorary doctorate from Kingston University yesterday when 64 postgraduate diplomas for teachers of dyslexic pupils were awarded. With her were Leo Horsfield and Tamsin Parker

Families denounce Allitt case 'whitewash'

BY RICHARD DUCE AND LIN JENKINS

PARENTS of children murdered or maimed by Beverly Allitt last night demanded a full public inquiry after denouncing the findings of Sir Cecil Clothier's official report as a "whitewash".

They confronted health authority managers in Grantham within hours of the secret enquiry's findings and made it clear they believed it was insufficiently critical of hospital management and local health authorities. They said two doctors made redundant were scapegoats.

They spoke as Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, announced that the 12 recommendations would be implemented. However, she said the affair must be seen as the "product of a malevolent, deranged, criminal mind".

Mrs Bottomley said the report criticised failures of management and communication at Grantham and Kesteven general hospital, and drew attention to the failure to take quicker action. "However, it refutes any suggestion that Allitt could easily have been detected or stopped."

Allitt was given 13 life sentences at Nottingham Crown Court last May. She had killed three babies and a child, and tried to murder another three.

Sir Cecil Clothier, QC, a former commissioner in the

Continued on page 2, col 5

Clues overlooked, page 2
Leading article, page 17

Carey onslaught on his 'wordy, boring' church

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has criticised the "long lessons, lots of prayers, dull sermons, hymns that drag on" in the "wordy services" of the Church of England. He also says the church has lacked a wholesome and positive attitude towards sex and may encourage a fear of women.

His criticism comes in an account of his visit to the non-denominational Taizé religious community in France. He praises the stillness and simplicity he found there and contrasts that with the coldness, aridity and noisy activity of traditional and modern Anglican worship.

He condemns the lamentable failure of churches that have no youth policy and, in many cases, no young people. "The word that young people often use of church worship is 'boring'," he says, criticising also those who "strip away traditional models, cast away the ecclesiastical garb and replace it with a bareness and straightforwardness that we feel modern people require and desire."



Carey: young people being driven away

Dr Carey makes clear that the church must do better if it is to attract future generations of young Christians. In his book about his visit to Taizé, in Burgundy, with 1,000 youngsters in 1992, Dr Carey praises almost every aspect of the community, founded by four men in 1944 to work for reconciliation among all people. He says that the community counters the English misconception of Christianity as a crutch for those without courage or strength.

Referring to the benefits of the long periods of silence used in worship by the Taizé brothers, Dr Carey says: "Somehow, silence has scarcely touched the Church of England at large, especially our public services."

He says that the invitations to silence in *The Alternative Service Book 1980*, the modern liturgy used in many churches instead of the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*, are rarely taken up save for a "cursory 20 seconds". This is "long enough, perhaps, for people to think that the celebrant has forgotten his place but not long enough for anyone to go deeply into personal prayer".

In a long passage on sex, Dr Carey says the church's attitude to it "has been far from wholesome and positive". In history, sex "has been regarded as shameful and embarrassing". The positive aspects of sexuality have often been overlooked, "much to our loss".

But in the past 20 years the pendulum had swung to the other extreme, where "anyone who is not sexually active is viewed with a certain amount of incredulity or disdain". The church must encourage young people "to see sexual intercourse in the context of the marriage relationship".

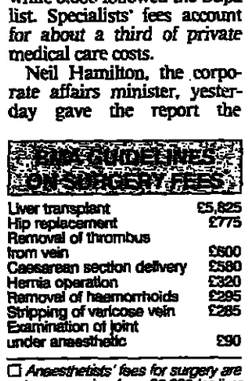
Spiritual Journey by George Carey will be published by Mowbray on March 23; £5.99.

Success of The Times

● SINCE September when the price was reduced to 30p (40p on Saturdays), sales of *The Times* have increased by 100,000. With circulation 23 per cent higher than in January 1993, *The Times* is the most successful national newspaper.

For details of the 30p price freeze until next January 31, see page 12.

Cartoonists draw touching picture of Calman



BY JOHN YOUNG

BRITAIN'S best known cartoonists yesterday briefly abandoned their mockery to pay tribute to one of their own, Mel Calman, of *The Times*, who died in hospital, aged 62, after suffering a heart attack while watching *Carlito's Way* at a cinema in Leicester Square.

Described by his fellow cartoonist, Ralph Steadman, as "a champion of the considered understatement", Mr Calman combined a sardonic humour with a generosity of spirit.

Nicholas Garland, of *The Daily Telegraph*, said: "His enthusiasm and his judgment were marvellous. They centred on his gallery where we all exhibited. He raised our spirits and our standards. He was a man of great charm, high intelligence and sensibility."

Mel Calman, who joined *The Times* in 1979, was born in Hackney, north London, of Russian-Jewish parents and became a journalist almost by chance after failing to get into Cambridge. He wrote several plays for radio. The central character of his work was the anonymous little man, buffeted and bemused by life's slings and arrows but with a chippy perception of the foolishness of those who purport to run our lives.

Although wounded by occasional criticisms that he could not draw, he was unfailingly helpful and encouraging to those anxious to follow the same trade.

Peter Brookes, *The Times*'s political cartoonist, said Mel's value to the newspaper was in inverse proportion to the very small space he occupied every day. "He was Everyman," he said.

Wally Fawkes, "Trog" of *The Observer*, said that the strength of Mel's cartoons was that they eliminated unnecessary pieces of draughtsmanship to get to the thought, which to him was more important than just illustrating a story.

Peter Stothard, editor of *The Times*, said: "Every true artist draws himself. Mel Calman drew himself into the heart of The Times."

Lord Rees-Mogg, editor of *The Times* from 1967 to 1981, said: "I always thought that he was both an excellent cartoonist and, as a colleague, an extraordinarily pleasant and gentle person to deal with."

The funeral will take place privately within the next few days, and a memorial service will be held later.

Pocket genius, page 5
Letters, page 17
Obituary, page 19



GIVENCHY

NEWS IN BRIEF

£40m in claimant loans not recorded

More than £40 million of loans to income support claimants have been omitted from official records because of failure in a government computer system and staff errors. Almost one in ten loans examined by independent auditors was not entered on computer programs set up by the Benefits Agency, which makes payments to claimants requiring special financial help.

A report by the National Audit Office says that because of "material uncertainty" surrounding many loans, the office has refused to give the agency's accounts a clean bill of health, a sanction applied in only 5 per cent of cases. Other problems have been caused by staff failing to transfer details of loans between offices. Although the Benefits Agency claims that the money is recoverable, the discrepancy will fuel concern among MPs over the inadequacy of some newly-installed computer systems.

Baby batterer jailed

A man who hurled a three-month-old baby left in his care against a wall to stop him crying was jailed for three years yesterday. The boy, who was also punched, was blinded in one eye — possibly both — and suffered partial brain paralysis. Snaresbrook Crown Court was told. Judge Andrew Brooks told Alan Sherritt, 29, of Barking, east London, that the injury he inflicted on a "very little child was, to say the least, horrific". Sherritt, who will have to serve his sentence in segregation for his own safety, was found guilty last month of inflicting grievous bodily harm.

Archers editor injured

Vanessa Whitburn, editor of *The Archers*, suffered a fractured pelvis and broken ribs in a car crash yesterday. She was in a serious but stable condition last night. The BBC said Miss Whitburn, 39, was injured when her VW Golf was in a collision near the Pebble Mill studios in Birmingham. Three men in the other car had minor injuries.

Smacking ruling delay

Mr Justice Wilson yesterday reserved his decision in the High Court on whether a childminder has the right to smack children. The London Borough of Sutton had challenged a decision last July, which allowed an appeal by Anne Davis, 34, of Sutton, against its refusal to re-register her as she would not sign a pledge not to use corporal punishment.

Gardiner to step down

Sir George Gardiner is to step down as leader of the Tory right before the next election. His plans are designed to avert the threat of a challenge to his position as chairman of the 80-strong 92 Group of Conservative MPs. Right-wingers proclaiming their loyalty to the Prime Minister are considering fielding a candidate against Sir George.

PM 'kind over Milligan'

Judge Tim Milligan, a cousin of Stephen Milligan, yesterday told John Major's office that he was not upset over the Prime Minister's remarks after the Tory MP's death that he must have been "pretty unhappy and pretty miserable". The judge said on the Isle of Wight, where he was sitting at the Crown Court: "I quite understand that when he spoke of Stephen on the radio, he was doing so with kindness." In a letter published in yesterday's *Times*, the judge had written: "... with respect to the Prime Minister, Stephen was neither miserable nor unhappy."

The Clothier report: hospital doctors, nurses and managers criticised

MARC ASPLAND



Virginia Bottomley and Sir Cecil Clothier, whose report says medical evidence painted an "unmistakable portrait of malevolence"

Allitt's victims could have lived

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

■ The Clothier report has made 12 recommendations on recruitment of nurses and investigation of untoward incidents

SOME of the children who fell victim to serial killer Beverly Allitt might still be alive had vital clues not been overlooked by doctors, nurses and managers, the inquiry by Sir Cecil Clothier has concluded.

Fragments of medical evidence taken together would have singled out Allitt early on as the cause of the unexpected collapses of the children on ward four at Grantham and Kesteven general hospital and painted an "unmistakable portrait of malevolence".

However, no one succeeded in piecing the clues together until four children had died and nine others had been seriously injured because it required medical staff to think the unthinkable.

One of the consultant paediatricians in charge of the ward, Dr Charith Nanayakkara, admitted yesterday that even after the police were called he could not believe that "criminal activity was the cause of the collapses on the ward".

Sir Cecil says in his report, which is being circulated to all health authorities: "The main lesson from our enquiry and our principal recommendation is that the Grantham disaster should serve to heighten awareness in all those caring for children of the possibility of malevolent intervention as a cause of unexplained clinical events."

The report criticises sloppy management, inadequate staffing levels and a "lack of leadership, energy and drive" on ward four. Senior management were "indecisive" and the ward manager was "dilatory and ineffective".

The two consultant paediatricians are commended for their skill and dedication working under pressure with inadequate support. But they are criticised for their failure to grasp sooner than they did the significance of the "cascade of collapses".

"If a meeting involving staff in all disciplines had been convened, as it should have been, as soon as the chance determination of events began to strain credulity, there is a strong likelihood that their malevolent cause would have been detected," the report says. Doctors in Grantham and Nottingham, where some children were referred to the Queen's Medical Centre, also missed abnormalities in chest X-rays which showed rib fractures due to violence.



Allitt: "bad, not mad"

However, Sir Cecil concludes that the way in which these pieces of evidence were missed did not amount to negligence. "Those whom we have criticised were subjected to a test more severe than any which most of us encounter in a lifetime."

The report makes 12 recommendations for the recruitment of nurses, management of wards and investigation of untoward incidents.

Sir Cecil said Allitt was bad, not mad, and that whatever hospital she had found herself in she would have found the means to carry out her evil intent. He rejected the suggestion she was suffering from a personality disorder, saying it risked "dignifying with a diagnostic label a horrific human deviance". "She was just a child abuser of a particularly devious kind."

Whitewash claim, page 1
Leading article, page 17

Parents dismiss findings as superficial

BY LIN JENKINS

PARENTS of the 13 victims of Beverly Allitt yesterday resolved to continue pressing for a public enquiry. They are already taking action through the European Court to highlight their case.

Next week they begin legal proceedings against Trent Regional Health Authority for compensation for the stress they suffered after their children died, were left physically and mentally disabled or suffered collapses at the hand of Allitt.

Ann Alexander, solicitor for most of the families, said Sir Cecil Clothier's report was superficial and inadequate. He had failed even within his own guidelines to illuminate the case and suggest how obvious failings could not be repeated in other hospitals.

She said he had made much of the fact that nobody could have thought there was a killer on the ward, yet failed to consider the fact that, even if there had been another cause, nothing was done when there was an unprecedented number of babies and children who were collapsing, some of them dying.

The ward suffered 26 collapses within 56 days and seven patients from the ward were transferred to the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, without anyone identifying that there was a serious problem.

Alan Davidson, whose son Michael collapsed while in Allitt's care, said the report rightly addressed the employment of nurses and their suitabilty for the job.

"What does not satisfy me is that billions of pounds of taxpayers' money has been spent installing a management system in the NHS and this seems to have broken down," he said.

Claims for compensation from the victims and the estates of those who died are continuing. Efforts to secure compensation for the parents have so far been unsuccessful and a case for damages related to post-traumatic stress disorder in 18 parents will be lodged in the county court on Monday.

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Fitness checks urged

BY A STAFF REPORTER

The report's 12 recommendations include:

■ Checks on health records of applicants for nursing.
■ Candidates with evidence of a personality disorder to be rejected.
■ Candidates with a history of self-harming behaviour, attempted suicide, self-laceration or eating disorder to be required to show the ability to live an independent life without support and to have had a stable job for at least two years before being accepted.
■ Post-mortem examinations on any child whose death is unexpected.
■ Formal health screening for nurses when they take their first job.
■ Records of sickness absence to be made available to occupational health departments.
■ Checks with GPs on the medical history of applicants for jobs in the NHS to be considered.
■ Failure of an alarm on hospital equipment (to show a patient has stopped breathing, for example) to be reported and the equipment serviced before it is used again.

Hospital doctors defiant in face of 'reliance on hindsight'

BY OUR HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE two consultant paediatricians who were in charge of the ward where Beverly Allitt murdered four children and injured nine others at Grantham and Kesteven General Hospital remained defiant yesterday in the face of criticisms of their work in the Clothier report.

At a news conference, Dr Nelson Porter and Dr Charith Nanayakkara attacked Sir Cecil Clothier for holding the enquiry behind closed doors and for not taking evidence from paediatric experts.

The doctors said that the report had failed to take account of the extreme staff shortages on their ward.

Dr Nanayakkara said that the Clothier enquiry had had a devastating effect on his life.

"It has destroyed me and my family. My reputation is at stake and my future uncertain," Dr Nanayakkara said.

"Here I am, a competent fully qualified clinical paediatrician, wasting my skills at home."

The two doctors said that the report produced by Sir Cecil had relied too much on hindsight.

Dr Porter said: "Without the benefit of hindsight it is not reasonable to suggest that the children on the ward needed protection.

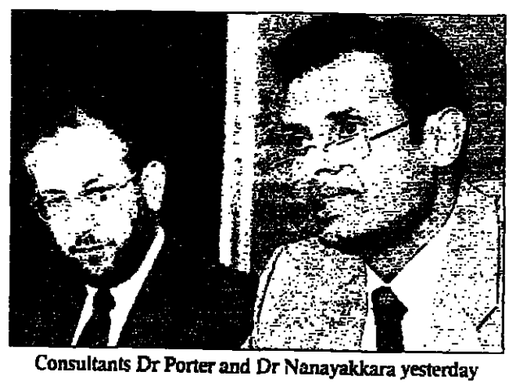
"No professional within the hospital or outside it has ever suggested that we should have been looking for a potential mass murderer at this or any stage."

"We were working in such circumstances that the clinical demands of caring for our patients consumed our qualities of leadership, energy and drive. These demands were compounded by the lack of staffing and resources," Dr Porter said.

Dr Nanayakkara said: "I have already publicly stated that if blame is to be attached to those who were unable to think the unthinkable then I may be fairly criticised.

Since the murders, Dr Porter and Dr Nanayakkara have both lost their jobs at the hospital.

The doctors were made redundant after South Lincolnshire Health Authority transferred the management of the hospital to the Queen's Medical Trust in Nottingham. Both the doctors are currently appealing against the decision.



Consultants Dr Porter and Dr Nanayakkara yesterday

Parents denounce findings of Clothier

Continued from page 1

health service, concluded that staff lacked the initiative and energy to collect evidence which could have singled out Allitt. "The dreadful lesson we have learnt is that no matter how numerous and skilful the staff of a hospital may be, a malevolent, cunning and deranged person can nevertheless continue to commit his or her crimes".

Mothers who attended the press conference asked why the report did not address the question why no-one was alerted by the number of collapses on the ward and the need for so many transfers to specialist care.

For Judith Gibson it was a frustrating first return to the hospital where Allitt attacked her five-year-old son, Bradley, leaving him with permanently debilitating spinal injuries.

"The recommendations of the report are obvious. They should have happened anyway. It's like shutting the gate after the horse has bolted," she said. "Virginia Bottomley is saying that it all boils down to Beverley Allitt. I find that entirely unacceptable. Everyone in the area knew the type of person she was."

During heated questioning, Allister Stewart, the hospital general manager, said the Allitt affair had never been a resignation issue for management. He maintained that Nelson Porter and Charith Nanayakkara, the paediatric consultants, had not been sacked but became redundant under a South Lincolnshire health reorganisation.

Maria Onions, the clinical services manager at Grantham, lost her job in similar circumstances. Martin Gibson, the unit general manager at the time of the murders, was not at the press conference yesterday. He has a new job at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Mr Stewart said: "We understand that the parents feel a great deal of anger towards this hospital. We are truly sorry about what happened. No words of eloquence can atone for Beverley Allitt."

He said the recommendations of the Clothier report would be complied with and that staffing levels at the hospital, criticised in the report, have been doubled.

Dr Kevin Woods, regional general manager of Trent Health Authority, said: "I believe that the report is a compelling narrative of the full horror done by Beverley Allitt. Parents of children she killed and hurt have had three years of the most profound suffering." He said he hoped that the report "offers them answers about what took place here."

Creswen Peasgood, whose two-month-old son, Christopher, was attacked by Allitt, said: "I've always believed it would be a cover-up and I've not changed my mind. We still want a public enquiry."

Mrs Bottomley effectively ruled out disciplinary action against staff at the hospital. "The shock and horror of discovering this nurse in their midst committing heinous crimes has had a devastating effect.

"Any disciplinary action will be taken by the employing authorities but the Clothier report does say that no one individual can be held responsible," she said.

Leading article, page 17

Cash allowances do not affect state benefit

Tory peers plan whip-round for jobless Caithness

BY ANDREW PIERCE

TORY peers, shocked at the disclosure that the Earl of Caithness has signed on as unemployed five weeks after his wife's suicide, are planning a financial rescue.

Lord Caithness, 45, who is claiming £44.65 a week in unemployment benefit, received an £11,200 pay-off when he resigned his £44,945 job as a transport minister last month. Unlike many hereditary peers, he has no private income.

The peer could claim more than £20,000 expenses from the House of Lords by the end of the year if he attends each session. His unemployment benefit will not be affected.

A senior Tory peer said last night: "I don't think any of us realised how bad his circumstances were. There is great sympathy and support for Malcolm Caithness on both sides of the House. We want him to return as soon as possible.

"There are already conversations taking place. I am sure assistance will materialise for him. It is an absolutely wretched situation. Whether he will be prepared to accept help is another matter."

The six-bedroom family home near Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, and the small flat in Pimlico, central London, will be sold. Half the proceeds from the £200,000 Oxfordshire home will go to his children, Iona, 15, and Alexander, 12.

Lord Caithness had been experiencing financial difficulties before his wife's suicide, which her parents blamed on his relationship with another woman, Jan Fitzalan-Howard. The couple had already talked to estate agents about selling their home. Lady Caithness, whose uninsured jewellery was stolen in two burglaries last year, had begun work in marketing.

Lord Caithness signed on at Banbury unemployment centre. Among the vacancies on offer are jobs as a double-glazing showroom manager; potato peeling in a fish and chip shop part-time for £25 a week; and working as a shop cleaner for £3.18 an hour.

Once the former minister's savings fall below £8,000, he can apply for income support, which would cover the interest on the mortgage on his family home. He could receive up to £102.65 a week income support, £18.10 child benefit, and £6.05 one-parent benefit, making a total weekly sum of £171.45 for him and his children. He is, according to Social Security Department sources, unlikely to receive assistance for the London flat.

If Lord Caithness, who inherited his title in 1965, has a big mortgage on his Oxfordshire home, which he bought three years ago, he could be hit by last year's measures whereby the Government imposed a payment limit of £125,000.

A spokeswoman for the department said: "Unemployment benefit is payable irrespective of income or capital. People can be disqualified from receiving it for up to 26 weeks if they decide to make themselves voluntarily unemployed. If someone has left their job because of a good cause it can be paid. Expenses from the House of Lords are not regarded as income." Lord Caithness resigned in order to spend more time with his children.

As a member of the House of Lords, he is entitled to a £69 overnight allowance, day subsistence of £31, a secretarial allowance of £30, and first-class rail travelling expenses.

When the minister married in 1975, he reportedly told his wife: "All I have is a ruined castle." The uninhabitable ancestral seat, Girnigoe Castle and Sinclair Castle, which stand side by side on half an acre of land near Wick at Caithness, is worth £5. It was declared a public safety hazard a few years ago when its crumbling foundations tumbled over the cliff top.

When Lord Caithness inherited his title, which was created in 1455, he vowed to renovate the property, which began to fall into disrepair at the end of the last century when the 15th earl died without an heir. The vast family fortune was split up.

Lord Caithness was brought up at Balmoral, where his father was Factor to the Queen. Educated at Marlborough College and the agricultural college at Cirencester, he became the 20th Earl at the age of 17 and spent the first few years of his inheritance working on a sheep station in New South Wales.

Major Richard Coke, the father of Lady Caithness, who lives on a 1,000-acre estate near King's Lynn, is thought to be helping with the children's school fees.

Politically active peers of the realm are "not considered to be working", a Social Security Department spokeswoman said. "As far as their expenses are concerned we do not regard their work as a job."

With the House of Lords expected to sit for a further 125 days this year Earl Caithness could claim the following allowances by December 31:
Attendance: £3,875
Overnight: £8,625
Secretarial: £3,750
Travel: £5,100
Total: £21,350
In addition, peers have unlimited free telephone calls and access to subsidised restaurants where a three- course meal costs £2.50.

MPs 'fled in hail of bullets'

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE two MPs taken hostage by Somali gunmen escaped in a hail of bullets. The harrowing account of the escape by Tony Worthington, a Labour spokesman on overseas development, contradicted earlier reports that the two had been released.

Speaking from the office of the British honorary consulate in Djibouti, Mr Worthington said he and Mark Robinson, Tory MP for Somerton and Frome, feared for their lives before they were rescued by local people and driven to safety. "The worst moments were at the end because it was clear that the dispute had become about whether we should survive or not," Mr Worthington said in a radio interview.

"At that moment, there was a split among the rebels and one of the people came running towards us waving his Kalashnikov. A local doctor, who was the hero of the whole thing, said: 'You shoot and you are dead.' The man then threw up his weapon.

"Another of the gunmen rushed into the hills with a weapon and started firing. Then the doctor and his team led us out of the area."

Mr Worthington said: "They [the gunmen] assured us it was a local difficulty. But as time went on, it became quite clear they were going to get nothing local out of it and then the issue became what they did with us."

The MPs were abducted in northwest Somalia and held for 24 hours in a dispute between warring clansmen. They were on a week-long fact-finding mission and are due to fly back to Heathrow tomorrow.

Mr Worthington denied that he had breached party discipline by embarking on the visit to study projects run by the charity ActionAid. "I had approval from the chief whip himself to go," he said.

The Labour whips have made clear that Mr Worthington defied a ban on "pairing" with Tory MPs and faces disciplinary action.

MARTIN BEDDALL



Romance stirred in the heart of the Post Office yesterday when it paid £660 at Christie's South Kensington for this unfolding Valentine's card dating from 1790. It will go to the National Postal Museum in London. Leading article, page 17

Villagers lose their dot on the map

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE four residents of England's smallest parish are up in arms after the Government ruled they no longer exist.

The hamlet of Thomley in Oxfordshire, which covers 540 acres, has been a parish since records began in the Dark Ages. Now it has been wiped from the map after the Boundary Commission ruled it was just too small.

Thomley, a registered archaeological site, is being swallowed up by the nearby village of Waterperry which boasts 142 residents. From April next year Waterperry will be renamed Waterperry and Thomley.

It has left Thomley's residents — neighbours Peter and Grizelda Rowsell and Edward and Janet Clark — mourning the loss of their historic identity. Mr Rowsell, a farmer, is Thomley's Lord of the Manor after buying the title, and chairman of the parish meeting which gathers each year in 16th-century Thomley Hall, his home for the past 27 years.

Mr Rowsell said: "These people should stop tidying up and get on with running the country. We weren't consulted. We were just notified of their decision and that was that. It's a sad day but Thomley will live on."

Barry Axford, chairman of Waterperry parish council, said: "It's a good decision for Thomley. It means they'll be able to vote in parish elections for the first time."

Thieves set up bank machine to trick clients

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THIEVES set up a machine outside a bank to trick customers into letting the gang copy cash-point cards without their victims' knowledge.

Police have seized the device, which was installed at the entrance to the Midland Bank's Sloane Square branch in central London. A notice requested customers wanting to use the automatic banking machines to run their cards through the device and to enter their personal identification numbers (PIN), which allows them to withdraw money.

Instead of authorising access to the lobby of the bank outside working hours, as the notice claimed, the machine was reading the information on the cards. The information and the PIN would have enabled the gang to copy the bank cards and use them to withdraw funds from the customers' accounts.

The device was removed after a suspicious customer alerted the bank, remarking on the machine's crude workmanship. A Midland spokesman said: "A perceptive customer noticed things were not quite right. We were able to contact all the customers who had used the automatic access that day, so no one lost any money."

The bank would not say whether thieves had gone to such lengths before to obtain card details. "Our main concern has to be to discourage copycat crimes," he said.

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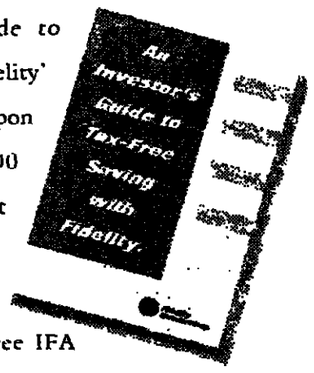
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THE TIMES DILLONS DEBATE

The curse of therapy

TO coincide with the publication of *Affliction*, Fay Weldon's novel which attacks psychoanalysis, *The Times* and Dillons the Bookstore are hosting a debate on the value of therapy. Presenting her views on the "institution which claims to treat all forms of disease and disorder", Miss Weldon will lead the discussion. Challenging her will be Professor Anthony Clare, the psychiatrist, whose TV and radio series have uncovered astonishing insights into the psyches of the famous.

The debate, chaired by Libby Purves, will be on Wednesday, February 23, at 7.30pm, at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1. Readers can get tickets (£10, concessions £7.50) by either completing the coupon below; calling at Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1; phoning Dillons on 071-915 6613, or faxing on 071-580 7680.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Big trouble at Little Rock

"This weekend there is a new problem for the Clintons. The Rose law firm stands accused by a Sunday Times Insight investigation of being party to a highly unethical deal which rivals Whitewater for the sums involved and raises serious questions about the activities of the "Four Musketeers" – Hillary and her three best friends at Rose..."

A special Insight report – News Review, The Sunday Times, tomorrow

Paris for £10

A Valentine's Day treat: take your loved-one to Paris for three nights and pay just £10 each for the return flight. Full details in The Sunday Times tomorrow

Wealthy builder and family found shot in gas-filled home

BY PAUL WILKINSON

POLICE are investigating the mysterious deaths of a wealthy builder, his wife and adult son who were found shot dead at their home near Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, yesterday.

Detectives are trying to find out if there was a suicide pact or if one of the family had shot the other two before committing suicide.

The bodies of Alan Taylor, 63, his wife Joan, 58, and their son Grant, 31, were found in their gas-filled home by Mrs Taylor mother, who went to the house after finding a note from one of the victims. A .22 rifle belonging to Mr Taylor was found.

All three worked together in the family business and drove company cars. Mr Taylor's Jaguar XJ6, his wife's red Japanese coupé and his son's blue Lotus were often seen parked together on the gravel drive of the four-bedroomed property in Whickham.

Det Supt David Wilson, of Northumbria police, said: "We don't know yet if there was some sort of pact, we don't know just what has happened. I don't know at this stage if we are looking for anyone else. It is a very unusual situation and for that reason we have to take our time." The results of a post-mortem examination being carried out by a Home Office forensic pathologist were not expected until today.

The bodies were found just before 6.30am by Mrs Taylors' mother, who lives a short distance away. She had woken to find the note on her front doormat. She went to the bungalow where she found the doors closed but unlocked. Inside she saw the bodies.

When police arrived they had to open windows and remove a number of gas cylinders that had either been turned on or had the valves ripped off.

It was reported that one body was found in bed and the two others were in the sitting room. A second note was recovered, which was said to contain details of documents, including a will, hidden in an outhouse.

Mr Wilson confirmed that a rifle had been recovered. He said Mr Taylor had a valid firearms certificate. All the bodies had gunshot wounds, he said, but an exact cause of death would not be known until after the post-mortem examination.

"It is going to be a complicated and involved investigation," he said. "A note left at a relative's house gave cause for concern. We believe the note was written by a member of the Taylor family. We believe we know who it was from, but until enquiries are complete we cannot be certain."

Mr Taylor and his wife had lived in the bungalow for more than 20 years. They ran Abcon Ltd, a concrete and plant-hire firm, two miles away at Blaydon, where their son also worked. Jim Burton, the company's sales manager said: "Everyone is stunned, the entire workforce is very distressed and upset."

George Brown, who runs a transport business near by, said: "We assumed Grant was being groomed to take over the company. They were not a troublesome, argumentative family at all. They were a lovely family and Alan would do anything to help anyone."

Alexander Elliot, a neighbour, said: "They were a very pleasant couple in good health. They would set off for work together every morning and never missed a day. They were simply an industrious, hard-working couple who enjoyed their home life."

Mr Taylor's distraught younger brothers, Dennis and Ronnie, both in their late 40s, were trying to piece together what had happened. "We just can't fathom it out," Dennis Taylor said. "We understand Alan had left notes all over the house. He even left one to his mother-in-law trying to explain why this has happened."



Chief Michael Boldy: "Crime around here can be quite bad. You can't leave your bike alone for a minute"

Boys in blue halt minor crime wave

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE boys in blue are just that on the streets of one South Yorkshire village: the youngest is nine and their chief commissioner is only 12. But the junior force of Hoyland Common has the full support of the county constabulary.

Alan Crossland, the mining village's bobby, said: "At first I thought it would never take off, but they are doing a first class job. Often kids their age walk the streets causing trouble. They act as the eyes and ears of the community."

Most evenings and every weekend the Senior Police, as they call themselves, patrol around their homes. So far the worst they have come across is a speeding motorist whose number was taken and reported to PC Crossland, but they have detained several schoolmates for a spot of vandalism or bullying.

The miscreants have spent up to an hour in a special "cell" in the garden of the force's founder and chief commissioner, Michael Boldy. "Crime round here can be quite bad. You cannot leave your bike alone for a minute. We have our own toy handcuffs and they don't complain. We don't tell the police about them," he said, claiming to have "arrested" seven youngsters since he launched the Senior Police last summer.

Headquarters is the garden shed, equipped with a computer for logging reports and desks for pre-patrol briefings. Entry to the force is through a stiff exam set by Michael, with questions such as "Who founded the first police force?".

The heirarchy seems a mite top heavy with Michael's two best pals as the deputy chief and commissioner. There is also a chief constable with a deputy and assistant, plus an inspector and a couple of sergeants. There are only three PCs and a single WPC. However, all members of the force go out on the beat, patrolling in pairs in a uniform of dark trainers and tracksuit trousers, white or blue T-shirt. They share two baseball caps with a police logo.

"We have not come across any serious crime yet," Michael said. "But if we do one of us will hide and keep watch, while the other goes for the police. We know not to get involved."

Bulger headstone marks first anniversary of death

BY KATE ALDERSON

THE grave of James Bulger was marked by a headstone yesterday, a day before the first anniversary of his murder. The placing of two stone angels at either side of his picture on the grave, which is permanently decked with flowers, was the only gesture of commemoration. There will be no memorial service today; his family wishes to grieve in private.

Joe Benton, Labour MP for Bootle, in whose constituency lies the Strand shopping centre where James was last seen alive, said his postbag reflected the bewilderment of his constituents: "Everyone wants to know how this crime came to pass so we can prevent it happening again."

However, people in Liverpool want the matter to rest now, he said. "They want to put the horrifying aspects behind them. They will always remember Jamie but the media scrutiny of this city is now unwelcome."

This sentiment is echoed by people in the Strand shopping centre. Yesterday most mothers held on to their children's hands, a minority continued as if the abduction had never happened. One woman left her three-year-old daughter alone by the door of a fast-food restaurant for five minutes.

Jennifer Flood, 20, from Bootle, often shops at the centre with her two-year-old son. "You watch your children more now. The incident has made me wary of approaching someone else's crying child."

The new national truancy scheme, which will fund an education welfare officer to monitor the shopping centre, is welcomed by shoppers and store managers, but they fear it will be ineffective. Peter McGee, manager of JJB Sports, said: "I confront kids who look like they should be at school but the bottom line is they will truant if they want to. The James Bulger incident was not typical of other children's behaviour. It's been suggested there was something uniquely Liverpudlian about it. That just is not true."

James Bulger's parents, Denise and Ralph, recently appealed to the Home Secretary to ensure that Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, their son's killers, serve more than the minimum recommendation of eight years. Det Supt Albert Kirby, a leading figure in the murder investigation, visited the family yesterday: "They are very uptight at the moment following the leaking of the judge's recommendations on the minimum sentence. It just hit them like a sledgehammer."

Bill to ban tobacco adverts wins support

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE campaign for a ban on tobacco advertising received a boost yesterday when MPs overwhelmingly supported a backbench move to make advertising cigarettes a criminal offence.

Anti-smoking MPs were jubilant after Kevin Barron's Tobacco Advertising Bill received a second reading without a vote. The Bill is opposed by the Government, which favours voluntary controls, and is very unlikely to become law. However, the sheer weight of support in the Commons will complicate the Government's job in blocking the Bill. A motion to end the debate on the Bill, which has cross-party support, was carried by 227 to 17, a huge margin for a Government-opposed measure.

Ministers had already decided to negotiate tighter restrictions on advertising with the tobacco industry in meetings next week and the vote will strengthen the Government's hand in those talks.

The voluntary agreement dates back to the early 1970s and has resulted in bans on tobacco advertising on television, radio, in cinemas and in women's magazines. Many other countries, including Canada, New Zealand, Australia and France, already have statutory bans.

A delighted Mr Barron, the Labour MP for Rother Valley, said after the debate that he was "confident" of getting the Bill through its committee stage. The size of the vote means that supporters of a ban will be in a majority on the committee giving detailed consideration to the Bill. Mr Barron told the Commons that four million UK citizens had died of diseases caused by smoking since an advertising ban was first proposed in 1962.

He argued that children were highly vulnerable to cigarette advertising, which more than cancelled out the effect of education about the dangers of smoking. "It is surely not an acceptable competition for the hearts and lungs of our children when the tobacco advertisers spend £10 for every £1 spent by the health educators," Mr Barron said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police lose appeal over affray

Three policemen jailed for two years for rampaging through a family's home after an off-duty drinking session and then lying about the incident in evidence lost their appeals against conviction yesterday.

The Court of Appeal refused to hold that an Old Bailey jury's verdicts last June against Nicholas Jones, 29, Jonathan Lehrle, 27, and John Walsh, 31, were unsafe and unsatisfactory.

The constables, all based at Chelsea police station, London, were charged over an incident after they had been drinking at a local pub. They had forced their way into the home of Francis Milburn after he had complained at the noisy behaviour of people leaving the pub. He had struck Jones on the head with a baton, and an affray had ensued involving Mr Milburn's mother, stepfather and 87-year-old grandmother.

Burglar held

Nigel Summerton, 32, a one-armed businessman, grabbed a suspected burglar climbing out of the window of his home at Millbridge, Plymouth, and detained him until the arrival of police.

Nurse guilty

Deborah Ward, 27, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, has been found guilty of professional misconduct and cautioned for accepting the gift of £1,000 from a pensioner she was nursing at a residential home.

Drugs seized

Two hundred police officers took part in a drugs and firearms raid in Hull and Scunthorpe, resulting in 17 arrests. Drugs, including cannabis, and ammunition were seized.

Tenor cancels

The tenor Luciano Pavarotti has pulled out of a concert next month at the Arena in Sheffield after sluggish sales of tickets for the 12,000 seats.

Pupil killed

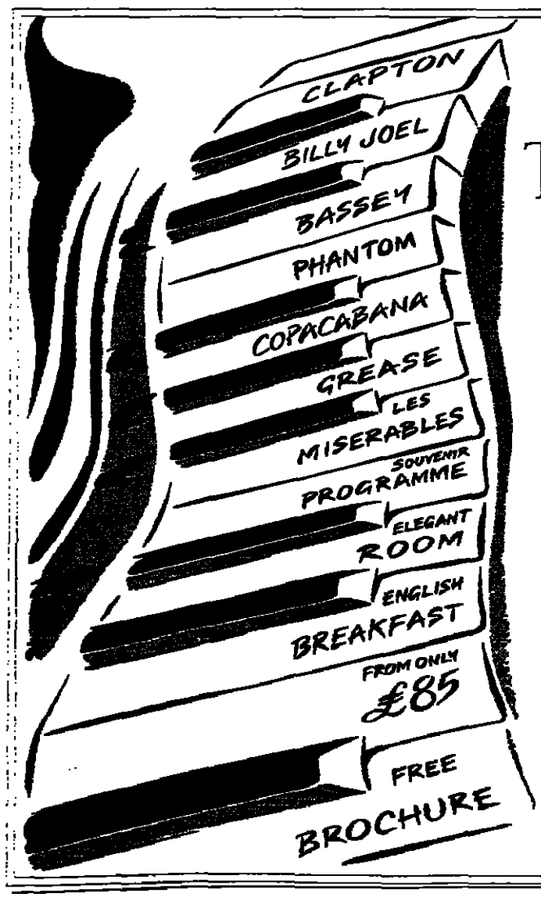
David Massey, 17, a pupil at Lancing College, West Sussex, was knocked down and killed by a car as he was crossing a road near the school.

Cats' legacy

Mary Orpin, of Maidstone, Kent, who died last month aged 68, has left £60,000 to the Cats Protection League to care for her two pet cats.

Raid floored

Six policemen making a dawn raid on a council estate in New Cross, south London, became stuck in a lift between floors.



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Six white women win race case

SIX white women were awarded £1,000 each in damages yesterday after they were barred from a meeting about race relations.

Lil Hopes and five others were given ten minutes to leave a Newham Council meeting in east London in October 1991 after making comments.

Before the women were asked to leave, Cathy Gardener, who was not party to the proceedings at Central London County Court, had pointed to some Asian and Afro-Caribbean people present, saying "these people" were in the area to stay and "we've got to get along with them". Councillor Pat Olley, who chaired the meeting, asked Mrs Gardener to apologise but she refused on the grounds that it was not intended to cause offence.

Councillor Olley had believed that the six women were part of a group that intended to disrupt the meeting.

Judge Quentin Edwards QC said: "If it had not been for their colour, they would not have been asked to leave." Allegations of discrimination in relation to the investigations by the council into the case were dismissed.

Blair says drugs cause £2bn crime

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

DRUG addiction causes almost half the £4 billion worth of property crime recorded each year, the Labour Party claimed yesterday.

Drug-related property crime was said to cost the average household £114 a year.

Tony Blair, the shadow Home Secretary, condemned the Government's "dangerously short-sighted" and uncoordinated approach to tackling the drugs problem.

"A law and order strategy without a drugs strategy in not a strategy worth the name," he said. "There are no easy solutions but the first step is to realise the urgency of the situation and act on it. At present, the situation is actually made worse by government policy."

Mr Blair's claims, based on analysis of police and government statistics, were dismissed as "grossly irresponsible", by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

The number of notified addicts in the UK has increased fivefold since 1982 and at present stands at 24,703. Studies in the North West have shown that 90 per cent or more of heroin users turn to crime to fund their addictions.



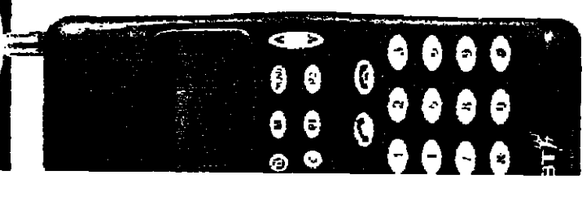
Blair: need for a national strategy

Labour estimates that heroin addicts would need to find up to £30,000 a year just to keep themselves in drugs.

Mr Blair, whose motto is "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime", called for increased government resources for drug prevention and anti-drugs education in schools, the appointment of a single senior minister for co-ordinating drugs policy and an independent review of the links between drugs and crime.

"Failure to tackle crime and its causes continues to leave the Government with a single track appraoch that costs us all," he said.

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Farewell to a master miniaturist

A pocket genius who put a smile on our front page

BY BERNARD LEVIN

As far as I know, only two men in history have made a career out of their noses. One was Cyrano de Bergerac, and the other was Mel Calman, who died on Thursday. However, Calman's so-productive nose was not the one on his face, but the one he drew again and again in his caricatures, especially the "thumb-nail" ones, which encapsulated an idea, an event, an opportunity, all in a frame no larger than four inches by two-and-a-half.

Let me dwell for a moment on that nose; I promise I won't draw psychological conclusions, not least because such solemnity would have given Mel one of his rare chances to laugh (he was notoriously depressive).

The nose, bulbous beyond any reality, thrust itself into the picture (a picture, incidentally, that was always and instinctively perfectly balanced), and dominated the story his cartoon was to tell, without, of course, submerging it.

Studying the nose leads to something like a revelation. Calman's figures bore no comparison to actual human beings; for one thing, the hands frequently lacked the usual number of fingers; for another his figures have dispensed with ears; eyes, of course, are only a dot, if that. When his figures of a man were joined by a wife, she was differentiated only by a scribbled spiral on her head.

What does all this mean, keeping psychological parallels at bay, whatever the effort? The answer — or one answer — was given to me when he let me watch him draw the thumbnail for the next day. This, I may say, was



a considerable honour; a man so riddled with anxiety normally shunned the very idea of a reader over his shoulder, and it needed much coaxing and soothing for me to land the prize.

But it was worth the wait: what I had thought — what anyone looking at his caricatures would inevitably think — was that the flowing, meticulous scribble would be dashed off in one rapid swirl of the crayon. But no; the scribble was repeated many times before he proclaimed himself satisfied.

Did he ever proclaim himself truly satisfied, though? He made light of his depressiveness in public and in his work, but it was no joke; he used that terrible phrase that all depressives know, but no outsider can ever understand: "after the gloom lifts you forget precisely what it was like".

The world, he sometimes thought, was implacably against him, as witness his dismay — not entirely comical — when he found himself amid the new technology of the newspaper industry. Hear him on it:

"Suddenly I could not find any scrap of paper on which to scribble my thoughts on. Where I had previously used thick pads of cheap newsprint, I now had to rifle the wastepaper baskets for the backs of discarded press releases. (It is not meanness that makes cheap paper desirable — it's the need to avoid being threatened by the sheer whiteness of high-quality drawing paper.)"

For all his blocks and black dogs, he had a truly phenomenal output; the depressive is often a workaholic, and his entry in *Who's Who* is stuffed with his creations — every page of which would have been examined a dozen times before he would let it out into the world.

Caricaturists are usually cruel, or at least unkind; they have to be, considering the appalling numbers of charlatans, wide-boys and politicians (particularly them) who strut their hour upon their stage.

Perhaps it is the small size of the thumbnail caricature that draws the sting, but whatever it is, Calman had it — that quality of sticking a real pin in a victim and withdrawing it to find no trace of blood on the weapon.

It is not only the depressive who is to be found wringing his hands and moaning "There's nothing to comment on", and it is not only cartoonists whose cry is heard. But for a front-page caricaturist on a newspaper, a day with nothing going on is spent not only suffering the horrors of the blank sheet, but also wondering, if an an idea does float into consciousness, whether it is strong enough to be used.

MARK KEHOE/SUNDAY EXPRESS



Calman: a phenomenal creative output despite suffering blocks and black dogs

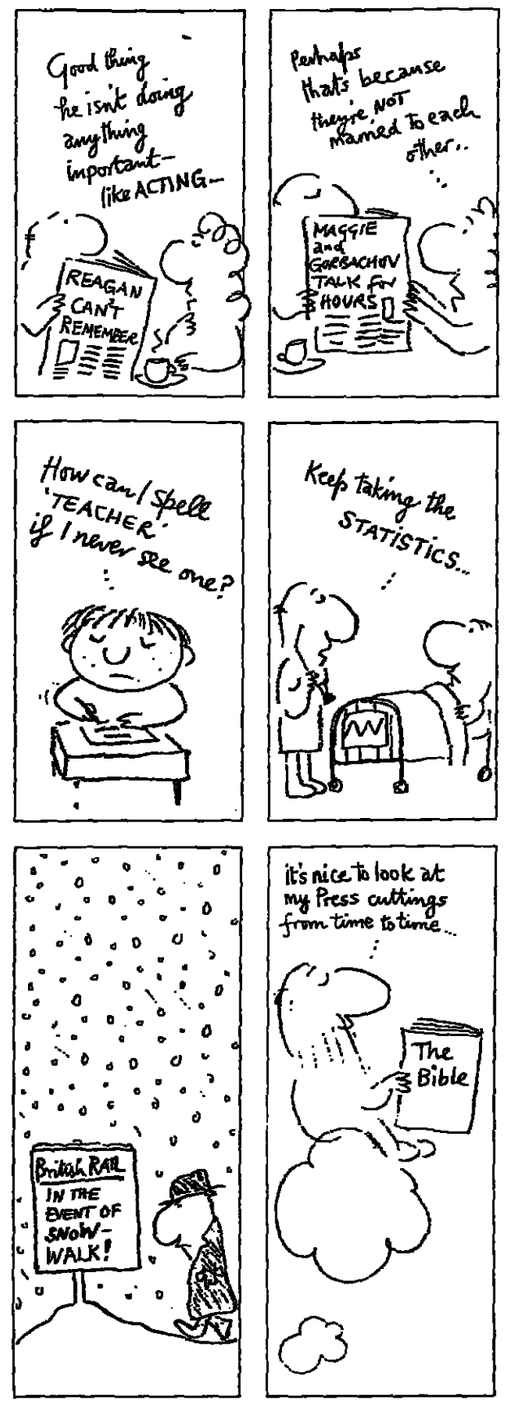
(And what does the caricaturist do, when there is plenty of action in the world, but it is action in the form of fratricide, famine and flood?) He said himself:

"...the basic problems of finding merriment in the troubles and lunacies of the world remain the same. I still find my stomach churns as my mind races round the news and I look at my watch to find I have ten minutes less than I need to meet the deadline."

Maybe; but I never heard of Calman missing a deadline. He was the perfect professional, and if those missing ten minutes had been twenty or thirty, his four by two-and-a-half would have been impeccably filled. I see him now, with that grizzled beard, fighting the clock and the depression at the same time, yet never letting go. We shall miss him deeply, for his work, his integrity, his talent and — for all who were blessed to know him — his friendship.

Tributes, page 1
Letters, page 17
Obituary, page 19

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'He lived by the gun and died by the gun. He was not a man who was going to die in bed of old age'

Revenge gang kills 'Mad Dog' terrorist

FROM NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, IN DROGHEDA

DOMINIC McGlinchey, the former republican terrorist leader who carried out some of Ulster's most brutal killings, has been murdered. Irish police believe his killers were former associates settling a long-standing feud.

McGlinchey, who as head of the Irish National Liberation Army was nicknamed Mad Dog, was shot ten times at point-blank range by three men as he used a telephone box next to a hospital. The killing happened on Thursday night at Drogheda, Co Louth. McGlinchey had been driving home with his 18-year-old son, also called Dominic, who watched from the car as the gunmen shot his father in the knees, stomach, chest, neck and head.

Detectives said yesterday that McGlinchey, who was believed to be setting up a new republican paramilitary organisation, was shot by former members of the INLA who had been stalking his movements in Drogheda. Intelligence sources said McGlinchey's killers were believed to have been tortured by him when he tried to root out INLA informers ten years ago.

McGlinchey knew he was living under the threat of an attack and escaped a murder attempt last June. The new attack came three months after his release from the republic's Portlaoise prison after a ten-year sentence.

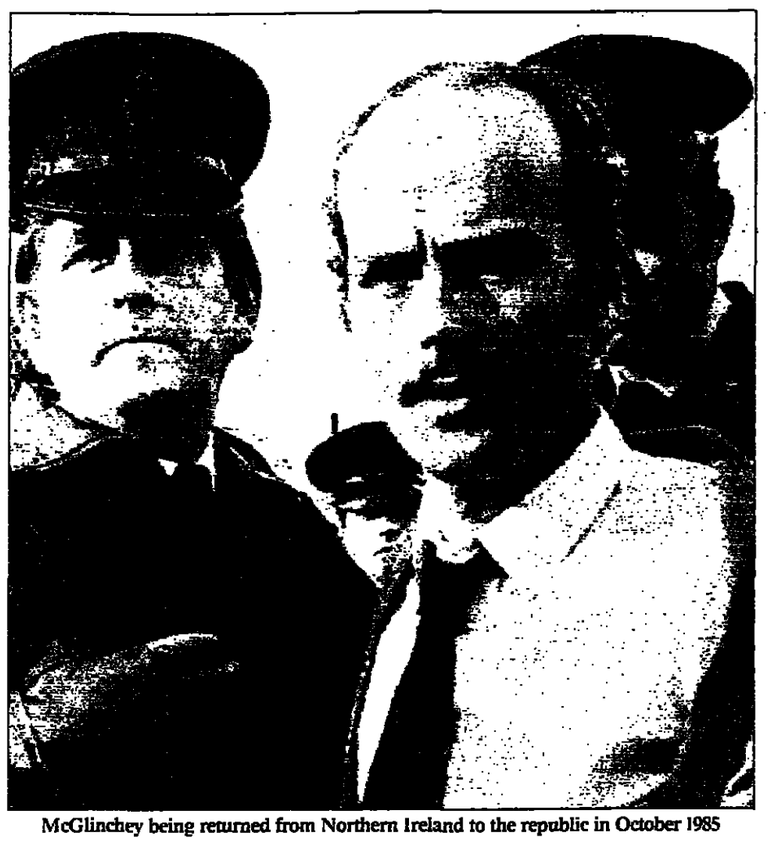
A police source said yesterday: "This time they were making no mistake. It was a real professional killing. The men who killed him were settling an old score." The same group is believed to have been responsible for the murder of McGlinchey's wife, Mary, who was shot at point-blank range in front of her two sons in 1987.

McGlinchey, who was devastated by her murder, vowed to root out the killers. But it appears that they reached him first. A detective said yesterday: "He lived by the gun and died by the gun. He was not a man who was going to die in his bed of old age."

Local people described the scene behind the Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. Kevin O'Rourke said: "I heard a couple of bangs and someone screaming. I went out and could see this man lying on the ground with a hole in his chest and head. Blood was everywhere."

Margaret Black, 47, who lives near by, said: "I knelt down beside him and felt a weak pulse in his neck. I knew he was on the way out. He then said to me, 'Jesus, help me, Mary.'" This was apparently a reference to his wife.

After forensic scientists from Dublin examined the area, McGlinchey's body was moved to the hospital mortuary early yesterday for a post-mortem examination. McGlinchey will be buried next week next to his wife in Bellaghy, Co Londonderry.



McGlinchey being returned from Northern Ireland to the republic in October 1985

Killer consumed by bloodlust and republican rage

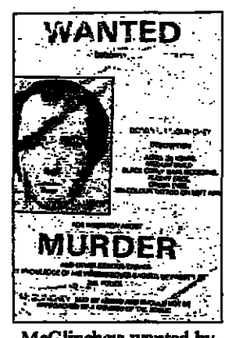
BY WALTER ELLIS

In the blood-soaked annals of contemporary Irish republicanism, no greater contrast could be offered than that between Gerry Adams, the president of Provisional Sinn Fein, and Dominic "Mad Dog" McGlinchey, the INLA hit man murdered on Thursday, possibly by the family of an alleged informer he had tortured to death ten years before.

Where Mr Adams cultivates the image of a minor college professor, complete with tweeds and campus beard — the very model of a modern revolutionary — McGlinchey's political education was more of the Shankill Butchers' school.

The Butchers, it will be remembered, liked to suspend their victims from meat hooks and regarded beating innocent Catholics to death with lead pipes as a judicious warning as to their future behaviour. They were, of course, loyalist, not republican, but McGlinchey would have regarded them as brothers under the skin.

Born into a nationalist family in Bellaghy, Co Londonderry, in 1955, he was consumed by bloodlust virtually from the cradle, so much so that he was interned in 1971 at the age of 17. He was like one of those psychotic mutterers one occasionally meets on the street, who burst into torrents of rage directed at everyone and no one, and in another society might easily have ended up in Broadmoor or its Irish equivalent. Had McGlinchey, as chief of staff of the Irish National Liberation Army, met Viscount Whitelaw to discuss a ceasefire, as Adams once did on behalf of the Provisionals, he would probably have stubbed out a cigarette on him and been carried from the room screaming abuse.



McGlinchey: wanted by the police, and the IRA

Compromise, still less understanding, was simply not in his nature. For a man of his bent, the INLA of the 1980s was a natural haven. It had been formed in the 1970s by a group of IRA men who objected, however implausibly, to what they saw as the "soft" approach of the Provisionals to the central issue of blasting the British out of Ireland.

In 1979, an uncharacteristically cool and calculating unit of the INLA despatched by McGlinchey and led, it is believed, by the late Ronnie Bunting, a Protestant renegade, blew up Airey Neave, Mrs Thatcher's choice to be Northern Ireland Secretary in her first administration. But far from being a coherent, if ultra-extreme, faction, INLA activists spent most of their energy in internal feuding, so that their stronghold in Co Louth, close to the Ulster border, became for a time like a pastiche of the American Wild West.

Years after they had ceased to have any influence on events, INLA activists were still locked into a mafia-style cycle of revenge, and McGlinchey was lucky to survive an assassination attempt last year, which left him wounded in head and hand. Few beyond his immediate family will mourn his passing. McGlinchey boasted of having killed at least 30 people, many of them fellow republicans, and at one stage or another was wanted by just about every armed organisation in Ireland, from the British Army to the IRA.

Ironically, he appeared in his latter days to have renounced terrorism. He had been released from Portlaoise prison in Co Kildare last March after serving seven years of a ten-year sentence for his part in a shoot-out with Irish police in 1984, and the signs were that he had had enough and wanted simply to be left alone with his nightmares.

These must have been real enough. Not only had he waded through blood to claim his reputation as Ireland's public enemy number one, but in 1987, while he was in prison, his wife and fellow extremist, Mary, was shot dead in front of their children by a rival faction of the INLA.

Although it was rumoured at the time that he had ordered her death, McGlinchey never fully recovered from the murder of his wife. He relished in accounts of his own killings, but could not stomach hers. On his release from Portlaoise, he became devotedly close to his sons, Dominic Jr and Declan, and it was particularly harsh on Dominic, now 18, that he should have been a witness to the violent death of both his parents. Quite what McGlinchey ever hoped to achieve by his activities is difficult to know. British soldiers, Irish soldiers; the RUC, the Garda; the British Government, the Dublin government: he loathed them all.

Did he murder a 63-year-old sub-postmistress in Co Antrim in 1977? We shall never know. There was insufficient evidence and, after a conviction that followed an historic cross-border extradition in 1984, he was released back into the community. Did he take part in the Darkley massacre of Protestant worshippers in their remote mountainside church? Did he really engineer the Ballykelly discotheque bomb in 1982, in which 17 people died? It is impossible to know.

He claimed them all at various times, though nothing was ever proved. In an article in Ireland's *The Sunday Tribune* McGlinchey once described his preferred method of operation: "I like to get close, to minimise the risk to myself. It's usually just a matter of who gets in first, and getting in close you put your man down first."

This week someone else got in close first and McGlinchey finally went down. His epitaph, unlike that of Robert Emmet, the Irish patriot, can already be written: born into violence, he achieved nothing, and he died at the hands of his friends.

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KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Lightning attack

Times reader Michael Macdonald-Cooper won the following game in the Dundee minor. In an innocuous looking middlegame, Black suddenly whips up a winning kingside attack.

White: B Bonnyman
Black: M Macdonald-Cooper
Dundee minor, 1993
Scandinavian Defence

1	e4	d5
2	exd5	Nf6
3	d4	Nxd5
4	Nf3	Bg4
5	Be2	Nc6
6	0-0	e6
7	c4	Nb6
8	Nc3	Qd7
9	d5	exd5
16	d6	cxd6
17	Nd5	Qf7
18	Nxb6	axb6
19	Qb5+	Qd7
20	Qxb6	0-0
21	Qb3+	Kh8
22	Rad1	Qa4
23	Bd5	Ra7
24	Re4	Qe8
25	Bxb7	Qh5
26	Rb4	Rxa2
27	Bf3	Qxh2+
28	Kf1	Rxb2
29	Rh4	Qxh4
30	Qd3	Qh1 checkmate

Baroque move

The Baroque International Chess Tournament starts today at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. The objective is to give international opportunities to young players.

The line-up includes Neil McDonald, Demetrios Agnos

1

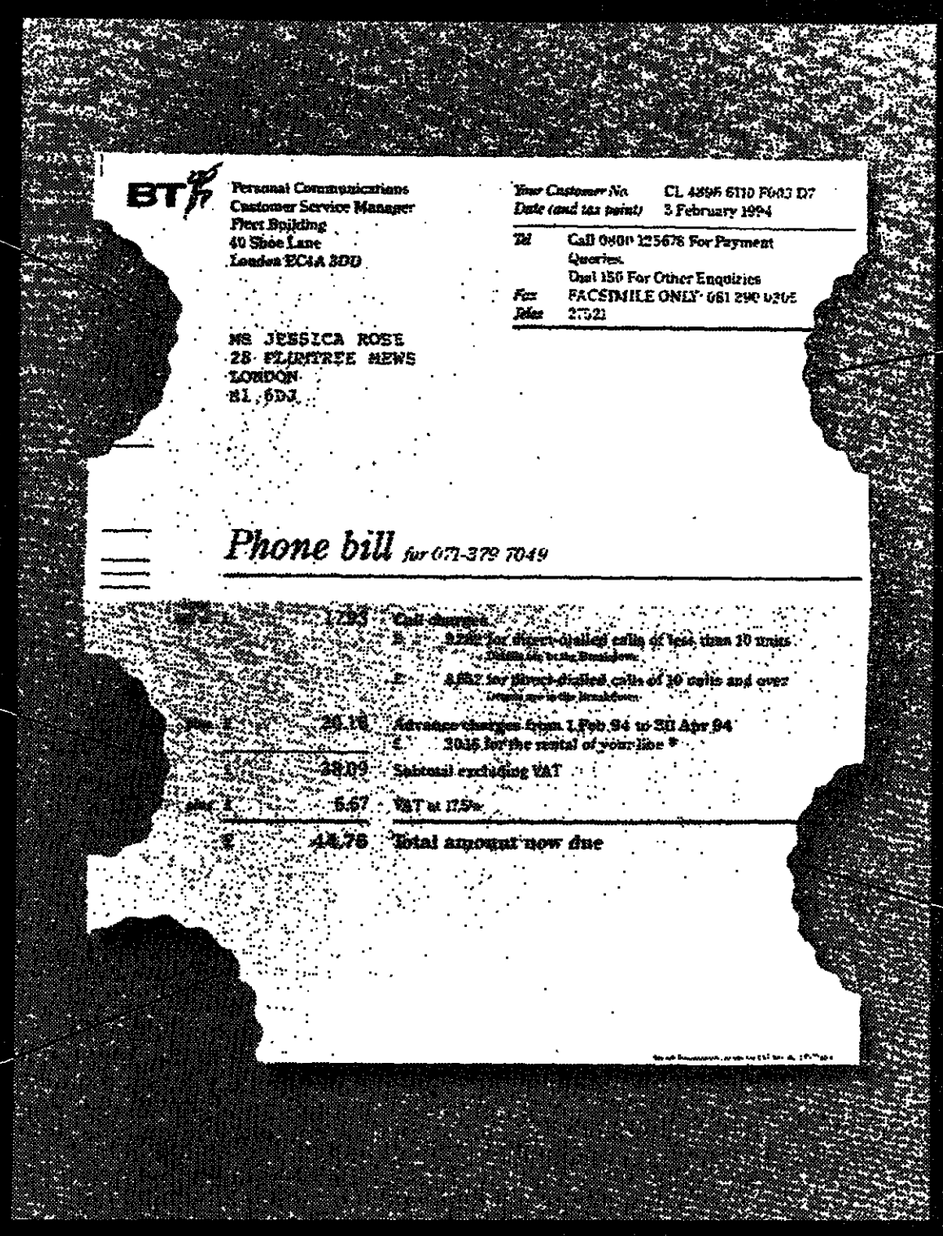
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2

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3

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4

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Air pollution 'much worse inside the home than outside'

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent



POLLUTION of the air with chemicals can be up to 70 times higher inside homes than outdoors. Air fresheners, mothballs, dry-cleaned clothes, chlorinated drinking water and cigarette smoke are increasing exposure to pollutants linked with ill health.

The findings of researchers indicate that controlling emissions from cars and industry may go only a small way to reducing the risk of such illnesses as cancer, asthma and heart disease. The researchers believe that some of the billions of pounds spent on cleaner-burning cars or on technologies to mop up industrial fumes could be better spent on making the public aware of indoor pollution.

Although the main research on the problem has been done in the United States of America, a pilot project comparing outdoor and indoor pollution at 150 homes near Bristol has begun as part of a child health study.

Lance Wallace, a senior environmental scientist with the US Environmental Protection Agency, said yesterday: "All our efforts on outdoor sources of pollution are diverting us from larger sources of exposure which are indoors." Tim Brown, of the National Society for Clean Air in Brighton, said: "All our focus is on outdoor air, but people do not realise they are being exposed to a cocktail of nasty chemicals inside their homes. This is important, because we spend about 90 per cent of our time indoors."

Dr Wallace cited the example of tetrachloroethylene, a chemical used in dry cleaning which has been found in experiments to cause cancer in rats and mice. "Half of the chemical comes out of dry cleaning plants, so these are regulated so that less is put into the outdoor air. But our research shows that wearing or storing clothes which have been dry cleaned is actually a person's main source of exposure," said Dr Wallace, who is based at the agency's office of research and development in Reston, Virginia.

The findings, published in the journal *Risk Analysis*, involved putting fixed monitors inside and outside nearly 200 homes. People were also fitted with monitors attached to belts or in vests. The levels of several key pollutants were higher inside the houses. Chloroform, a carcinogen produced from the chlorination of drinking water, was five times higher in houses than outside. "Drinking the water is not the only source. You are also breathing it in when you shower, bath and wash clothes," Dr Wallace said.

Benzene, a cancer-causing agent for which the Government is preparing to set limits in outdoor air, was higher inside homes, particularly where people smoke. Natural gas also contains trace amounts. Levels of paradichlorobenzene, a substance widely used in air fresheners and, in America, registered as a pesticide, were higher. Carbon monoxide levels were higher inside, with the difference linked to gas cookers.

One of the most intriguing findings was for particles suspended in the air, which are increasingly linked with breathing difficulties and asthma. The general levels were found to be the same inside as outside. But the personal monitors registered levels 50 per cent higher.

Dr Wallace said there were several theories that might explain this result. One is that this "personal cloud" is caused by skin being shed. Another is that static electricity, generated by clothes or hair, attracts particles. Buttering toast and using a vacuum cleaner might add to the risk.



Juliet Aubrey as Dorothea in the BBC production



Trevyn McDowell as Rosamond and Douglas Hodge as Lydgate in *Middlemarch*

TV success inspires race to produce £1 Middlemarch

By Alison Roberts, Arts Reporter

THE novel *Middlemarch* has entered the classics paperback price war with two £1-a-book imprints battling to publish their edition first.

As George Eliot's work tops the best-seller charts — Penguin has sold 80,000 copies at £3.99 since the BBC television adaptation began five weeks ago — the race is on to corner the cheaper market.

The Wordsworth Editions imprint, which for two years has been publishing £1 classics without critical introductions or notes, will bring out its *Middlemarch* next month. Publication has been brought forward in a move that answers spoiling tactics from Penguin Popular Classics, the new £1 series published under the Godfrey Cave imprint.

Penguin Popular Classics — "popular" distinguishes the imprint from the established Penguin Classics series — will bring out its £1 version of *Middlemarch* in May. The imprint brought out its first cheap edition in January and is publishing nine of Wordsworth's top-ten best-sellers within six months.

Both imprints are keen to cash in on classic authors' popularity on television but the publishing world frowns on the tactics. It is concerned that the price war will encourage customers to think that books are too expensive. John Maxwell, managing director of Godfrey Cave, said Penguin had to respond to Wordsworth. "It has taken us two years to do so," he said.

Michael Traylor, director and co-owner of Wordsworth, said he was flattered by Penguin's interest in the idea he had pioneered but he wondered how many classics from Penguin's huge range would be reduced in price. "We are looking forward to its gigantic lists going out at £1 a copy," he said.

Mr Maxwell said the cheap range would not be unlimited: "A lot will depend on the author and how popular he or she is." Wordsworth's best-seller over the past eight months is Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, which has sold 132,000 copies. Next is *Fanny Hill*, by John Cleland, and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.



Classic success: Eliot tops best-seller list

The marketing men meanwhile continue to devise fresh ways of selling the classics to consumers. Later this month the BBC will throw a special party for foreign broadcasters with an interest in buying *Middlemarch*: everyone will dress in 1830s costume for an authentic atmosphere.

BBC Enterprises, which sells programmes abroad, will open a Hong Kong office next week whose staff will be instrumental in selling *Middlemarch*, among other programmes, to Southeast Asia. Glossy brochures and showy hospitality form part of a strategy designed to get BBC adaptations broadcast all over the world.

Oxford Paperbacks, part of the Oxford University Press, has also taken off the gloves. Its series of cheaper classics includes three Bronte novels in a 933-page volume for £6.99. American imports can be even cheaper than £1. Some are photographed from old editions, bringing down manufacturing price at the expense of quality.

Daniel Johnson, page 16

RSC unveils ambitious playbill

By A Staff Reporter

THE Royal Shakespeare Company yesterday unveiled one of its most ambitious programmes of work, including two world premieres.

Adrian Noble, the company's artistic director, said the RSC still faced financial problems, but with a £3.3 million deal with drinks giant Allied Lyons it would survive.

The two new plays the RSC is to present in London are *After Easter* by Anne Devlin and *Pentecost* by David Edgar. Both will be directed by Michael Attenborough.

"We have just completed our most successful season in Stratford-upon-Avon during which we played to 569,000 people," Mr Noble said.

He said that 1994 "promises to be a great year for the RSC artistically, provided we can surmount the Government's first reduction to arts grant-in-aid".

Productions at Stratford include the award-winning *Macbeth* starring Sir Derek Jacobi, *Henry V*, *Twelfth Night* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

In London the RSC will present *Merchant of Venice* and *King Lear*, starring Robert Stephens, which won a string of awards at Stratford last year.

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Tunnel firms face deluge of claims over bone disease

BY EDWARD GORMAN

CONSTRUCTION firms face compensation payouts running into millions of pounds after a tunnel worker suffering from a bone-wasting disease received a settlement worth almost £200,000.

Balfour Beatty agreed the out-of-court settlement last week with Ray Cox, who worked as a miner on the construction of the Dartford road tunnel for two years in the mid-1970s. Balfour Beatty did not accept liability for the onset of the illness, but the case has immediate implications for scores of other former tunnellers whose claims have yet to be settled.

Mr Cox, 58, developed a condition known as bone necrosis as a result of working in compressed air, then commonly used by contractors on tunnels up and down the country, to keep underground water out of the working area.

The condition, literally the death of bone tissue, is caused when nitrogen bubbles in blood vessels cut off blood supplies to the bones. The bubbles are formed when tunnellers in compressed air return to normal atmospheric pressure too quickly.

Professor Dennis Walder, a leading expert on the condition, believes the illness now developing in many workers is the result of lock-keepers on sites not ensuring tunnellers went through decompression properly. "The lock-keepers did not fully adhere to the regulations," he was quoted as saying recently. "The number of divers suffering from the bends or bone necrosis is notably less than the number of tunnellers."

Mr Cox, of Clitheroe, Lancashire, has not worked for several years as the disease progressively crumbled the bones in his hip and shoulder. He compared his condition to that of a person suffering from a severe form of arthritis. "I wasn't told I had the disease until 1983 when I was working in the Far East. I take pain killers nearly every day."

He said he would use part of the money to pay for a hip replacement which he could now afford to have done privately.

The case, although not the first involving Balfour Beatty, has been watched carefully by Edmund Nuttall construction, one its main competitors. Nuttall is believed to be facing at least 70 claims from former tunnellers which have still to be settled, in connection with the construction of the Tyne road tunnel in the mid-1960s in which compressed air work was used extensively.

Alan Smith, head of public relations for Nuttall, said yesterday the matter was in the hands of its insurers.

The use of compressed air in tunnelling depends largely on the soil conditions in which digging is taking place and particularly the amount of water it is holding. It is not thought to have been required in work on the Channel Tunnel but it may be necessary on small sections of the new extension to the Jubilee line on the London Underground.

Professor Walder has called for a new official register to keep a full record of how long tunnellers work in a compressed-air environment, with charts showing decompression times and workers' full medical history.

Manor for the downwardly mobile offers a glimpse of the heavens

For sale: Des Res. Suit mole

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

A HOME built 20ft under a Gloucestershire meadow is up for sale for £250,000. Mole Manor, at Westonbirt, near Tetbury, has four bedrooms, an office, a kitchen, a living room and pool. Butterflies and stars can be seen through the transparent roofs of the rooms.

Rising heat from the kitchen is recycled, temperature and humidity are computer-controlled and plastic underfloor pipes cut heating bills by two thirds, the agents Cluttons emphasise.

Nor is the house dark. "Daylight floods through the central and satellite domes set into the ceiling, which, unlike windows, are not dependent upon the direction of the sun," Maggie Langdon, of Cluttons, said. Maintenance cost are low because there is no facade to maintain.

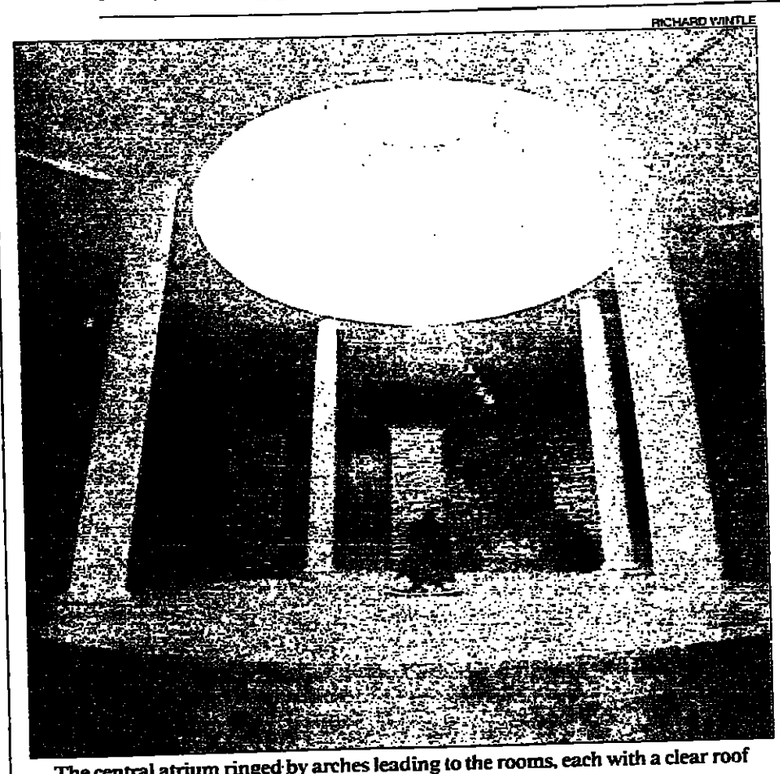
The house is the brain-child of Stuart Bexon, a marketing executive. Local planners would not allow him to build overground, so in 1982 he decided to bury a home instead, inspired by a very cold winter and a wish to preserve the lie of the land. The house was designed by Arthur Quarmby, another enthusiast for hibernation, who has his own underground home.

A farmer helped Mr Bexon to dig out 2,500 tons of earth, stone and rubbish from the gently sloping site, and the house was completed in 1987.

Mole Manor was originally put up for sale in the autumn of 1989 for £360,000 as the Bexons wished to move because of their growing family. Despite considerable interest from sightseers masquerading as purchasers, it failed to sell. This spring it is again on the market, now with planning consent for a self-contained annexe set into a rocky outcrop about eight yards from the main house.

The Bexons plan to build a similar home when they move. "They are committed to the hibernating concept," Ms Langdon says.

As Mole said in *The Wind in the Willows*: "Once underground, nothing can happen to you, and nothing can get at you."



RICHARD WINTLE

The central atrium ringed by arches leading to the rooms, each with a clear roof



Mole Manor from the air, showing its entrance

Junior Arsenal player detained for killing

A JUNIOR England and Arsenal football player was sentenced to 30 months custody yesterday for stabbing a man to death just yards from the club's Highbury ground.

Kevin Dennis, 17, who plays for Arsenal's youth team, looked shocked when the judge ignored pleas that he should be freed because of the "exceptional circumstances" of the case.

An Arsenal official, who had earlier given character evidence on behalf of Dennis, sat with the footballer's sobbing parents.

Dennis, 16 at the time, had plunged a knife six times into Simon Geary, 23, Dennis, who was cleared of murder but found guilty of manslaughter, claimed he had brandished the knife while trying to protect his father. Dennis's brother Desmond, 18, who passed him the knife, was also convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 30 months youth custody.

Richard Ferguson QC, for the defence, asked the judge to free the young footballer, who has played for the England schoolboy team, so he could continue his promising career. His client had suffered an "inordinate degree of provocation".

THE BRITISH TINNITUS ASSOCIATION

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The British Tinnitus Association
President: The Rt. Hon. Lord Ashley of Stoke, CH

The British Tinnitus Association,
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ur child disabled. ankfully, ur family asn't."

Only Barclays credits all its customers with interest on the value as soon as the money arrives.

The practice was exposed by David Gold of BANK-CALc, a company that investigates interest charges imposed on consumers by banks. "I was astounded to discover that, of the big banks, only one was playing it straight," Gold said.

Wo[illegible] ar[illegible]

"THE SUNDAY TIMES" 30.1.94.

Four days, say the banks. Three days, says the Treasury. And in the extra day the banks are making £300 million by investing the money — customers' cash — on the world markets. The honourable exception, according to the consumer group that exposed the practice, is Barclays.

Customers of [illegible]
ster and [illegible]

"DAILY EXPRESS" 31.1.94

Only Barclays can claim to be whiter than white in this murky scenario, because it credits the customer's account as soon as it has cleared the cheque.

Confused? Here is the [illegible]
an [illegible]

"TODAY" 31.1.94

Credit when credit's due.

[illegible]ici-
a[illegible]es. of this system. By contrast, Barclays and the Royal Bank of Scotland make a point of passing on the money to their customers directly on receipt.

Barclays [illegible]
direc[illegible]
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"THE MAIL ON SUNDAY" 9.1.94.

There's only one answer to such highway robbery.

Switch your account to Barclays.

[illegible]

"THE SUN" 31.1.94.

BARCLAYS

هكذا من الاصل

News of ship's sinking by Japanese submarine was deliberately suppressed

Wrens' fate revealed after 50 years

BY JOHN YOUNG

A CARVED paschal candle will be blessed in the church of St Mary-le-Strand, London, tomorrow in memory of 20 members of the Women's Royal Naval Service who were killed in action 50 years ago. They were among the victims of one of the worst maritime disasters of the Second World War, news of which was deliberately suppressed.

In the early afternoon of February 12, 1944, the *Khedive Ismail*, in convoy en route from Mombasa to Colombo, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine in the Indian Ocean. Blown apart by an explosion in the boiler room, she sank within two minutes with the loss of 1,297 lives.

In terms of fatalities it was comparable with the sinking of the Cunard White Star liner *Lancastria* off St Nazaire, France, in June 1940 and the destruction of the battle cruiser HMS *Hood* by the *Bismarck* in May 1941. While those sinkings were reported at the time, it has taken half a century for the fate of the *Khedive Ismail* to be exposed.

According to Lionel Hooke, a former Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Naval Reserve who tells the story in a book to be published soon, information was not released by the Public Record Office until 1985, more than ten years beyond the usual 30 years stipulated for matters considered to affect national security. The defence ministry said yesterday that the 30-year rule was sometimes extended in particularly sensitive cases.

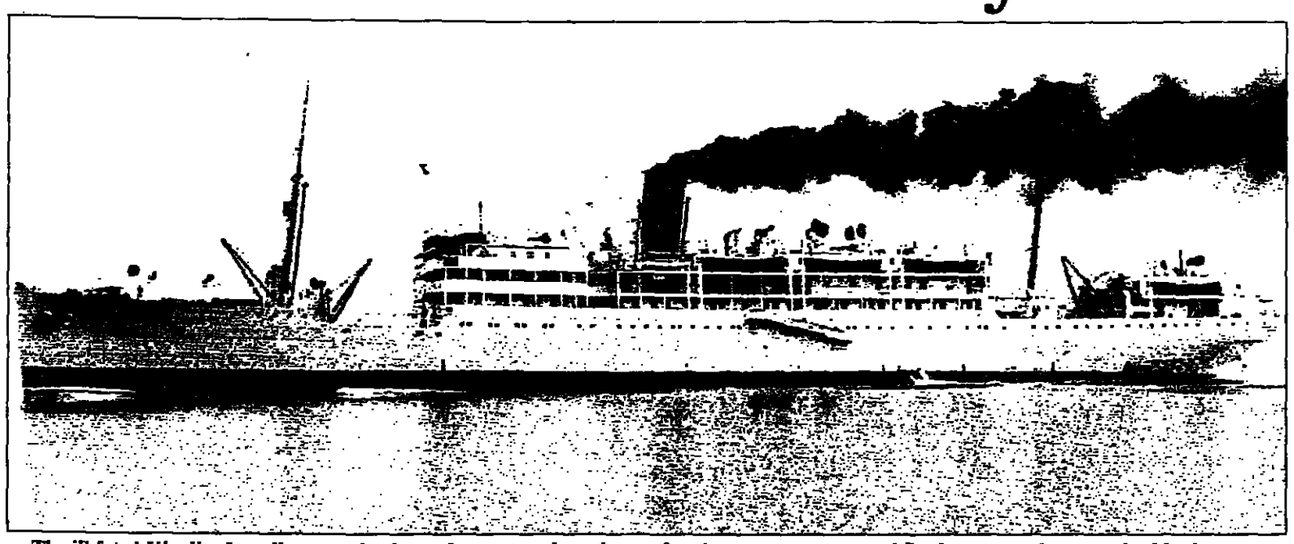
Tom Fox, a survivor who was then an 18-year-old Royal Navy signaller, believes it was because the commander of one of two British destroyers escorting the convoy took the decision to depth-charge the submarine while survivors were in the water.

"I did not realise it at the time but in retrospect I think that is what happened," he said. "My mother was advised that I had been lost at sea. When the time came for me to be demobbed, I discovered that I had been officially dead for several months."

On board the *Khedive Ismail* were more than 700 African soldiers with British officers and senior NCOs, 200 Royal Navy personnel, 40 army nurses and 22 Wren signallers. The vessel was steaming at about 13 knots when a Japanese submarine surfaced in the middle of the convoy and fired two torpedoes into the boiler room. She was on her beam ends in 45 seconds and sank a minute later.

The destroyer HMS *Paladin* was able to pick up 260 survivors while HMS *Petard* forced the submarine to resurface. Neither destroyer was equipped with armour-piercing shells and they dispatched the submarine with torpedoes.

The submarine was one of the remarkable IJN class, which had a range of 14,000 miles and could travel between Malaya and the coast of France without refuelling.



The ill-fated *Khedive Ismail* was sunk when a Japanese submarine surfaced among a convoy and fired two torpedoes at point-blank range



A Japanese IJN class submarine, sister ship to the one that sank the *Khedive Ismail*

Survival script calls for cast of tourists to save 'tired' Elstree

BY ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

THE studios in which Alfred Hitchcock made the first British talkie may be reduced to a tourist attraction selling themed food and movie merchandise, according to recommendations in a £25,000 report on the future of Elstree.

The report says that the studios, where Indiana Jones and Darth Vader once stalked the sound stage, should confine its film-making to pop videos, television commercials and low-budget movies. To subsidise film-making, an Elstree tour should be set up — with a large element of corporate hospitality to balance the books.

The 90-page report was commissioned by Hertsmere Borough Council in an attempt to prove that film-making is viable on the site. The council has entered into a legal tussle with the owner of Elstree, Brent Walker, which wants to demolish the studios to build offices and shops.

But a redevelopment plan proposed by Hertsmere — with the aim of reviving the glory days of Elstree — is not feasible, according to the report by Economic Research Associates. "Overall it is our opinion that steady profits for the studio components alone will be difficult to achieve at Elstree," it says.

The conclusion will come as a blow to those, including the director Steven Spielberg, who hold out hopes for Elstree's regeneration.

Richard Grove, planning officer for Hertsmere, said that the council was still optimistic. "The report's initial view is cautious, but if the modest upturn in the British film industry continues, there might be scope for more investment in the studios," he said.

Elstree lost almost £1 million in 1991 and almost £750,000 in 1992; the post-production operation and the stills department were closed down last year and the studios are run by a skeleton staff of nine. Elstree can no longer compete with the bigger studios at Shepperton and Pinewood. Among film-makers, Elstree "is regarded as a shadow of its former glory. It suffers from a poor image, and is regarded as being tired and run-down," the report says.

But Elstree could become a profitable tourist centre, attracting 500,000 visitors in its fifth year of operation. A tram ride around the site could take visitors past interior and outdoor sets, live action stunt shows and real filming, according to the report. An entertainment centre, with a multiplex cinema, food hall and permanent exhibition of movie memorabilia, would be developed.

It would cost £2-3 million to set up the tour, plus a further £1 million to renovate the site. The full redevelopment envisaged by the council would cost £10 million.

The council has agreed to accept the report's recommendations, pending the outcome of its case against Brent Walker, although it will watch the film industry closely to see whether an improvement in its fortunes could benefit Elstree.

Credo

Why trying to be good is a waste of time

Geoffrey Rowell

One of the most celebrated theological battles in the early centuries of the Church was between Augustine, bishop of Hippo in north Africa, and the Pelagians. The controversy occurred at the beginning of the fifth century, when the Church, embraced a century earlier by the Emperor Constantine, attracted many fellow-travellers whose standards, in Pelagian eyes, fell short of the demands of the Gospel.

Pelagius was a British monk, an ascetic and a stern moralist, who summoned those who called themselves Christians back to basics. God in Christ has revealed what is good, now you must get on and live the good. If you do not, it is because you do not *want* to. The good is within our natural powers to attain.

Augustine thought differently. He was as committed as Pelagius to the Christian life, but, like St Paul, he was painfully aware of the frailty of our human will. "For the good that I would I do not," Paul had written, "but the evil which I would not, that I do." There was an inner conflict, a tension between ideals and fulfilment. Augustine's conversion had been slow and tortuous. As John Donne wrote later: "On a huge hill, / Cragged, and steep, Truth stands, and he that will / Reach her, about must, and about must go."

Discovering the truth is only the first problem. From his own experience, Augustine knew how the will can dither and contradict itself and resist, even when, in principle, the mind has assented to truth.

Augustine wrote, in a famous phrase, "Thou hast made us for thyself and the heart of man is restless until it finds its rest in thee". To have found the truth that his heart sought was to have found God. Yet that finding was, in a more profound way, a being found. In all his pilgrimage to find the truth, to discover the surpassing and absolute beauty, and to live out the good, it was God who was at work, a magnet drawing him, a grace preparing and sustaining his way. "Give what you command, and command what you will," Augustine prayed, that God might give him strength to live the way of love.

It was a prayer that infuriated the moralising Pelagius. Augustine knew that sin and failure were manifold in their character — there was deliberate sin, and sins of frailty and weakness and weariness: sins where the deed was right but the motive wrong. Only the God who is love in himself can be the source of the grace by which we can both love and love aright.

It is a return to grace with which Christians are concerned next week, on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, the preparation for Good Friday and Easter. It is a time whose keynote is repentance, the renewing of the mind and heart, a coming to the point where the heart is pierced by the truth about ourselves and God.

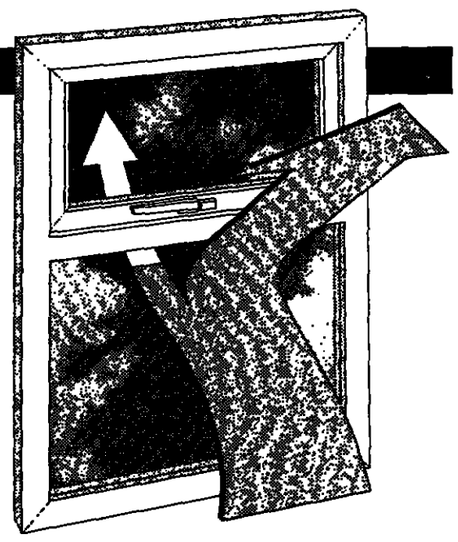
Against an ever-popular Pelagianism the Church reminds us that we are sinners and that the prayer of penitence opens the heart to the healing and transforming grace of God.

It is no accident that Lent means springtime, for penitence is the true seed-bed from which the new life of grace and holiness may grow. "To forgive and to be forgiven are the two points of holy magnificence and holy modesty," Charles Williams wrote. And that is why, not only in Lent but every day, Christians pray in the words of Jesus: "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

☐ *The Right Rev. Geoffrey Rowell is Bishop of Basingstoke.*

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Setback throws shadow over first Clinton-Hosokawa summit

US talks with Japan fail to end deadlock on trade gap

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

TALKS lasting until the early hours between Japanese and American officials failed to resolve a trade dispute in advance of yesterday's first summit between President Clinton and Morihiro Hosokawa, the Japanese Prime Minister.

The talks broke down at 4am after three hours in which Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, and Tsutomu Hata, Japanese Foreign Minister, tried to bridge the differences. Neither side held out hope that Mr Clinton and Mr Hosokawa would strike a deal at their meeting. The prospects of a breakthrough were considered about as bleak as the winter storm gripping Washington.

In the absence of a trade agreement, Japanese and American officials were quick to emphasise the solidity of their security and diplomatic ties, which they said were unaffected. One US aide said: "It won't be nasty at the summit, just a no-deal, truth-in-summitry exercise."

The impasse was a disappointment and setback for Mr Clinton and Mr Hosokawa, who both took office promising reform but have found themselves bogged down by a trade battle that has grown more contentious with time. The Americans are determined to win greater access to Japanese markets for their goods and services to bring down the increasing trade gap. In the past year, Japanese exports to the United States exceeded American sales to Japan by $60 billion (£40 billion), an increase of one-fifth over the previous year.

The Americans are holding the Japanese to what they claim was a pledge made after the Group of Seven economic summit last July to set benchmarks for opening markets, specifically for American cars, vehicle parts, telecommunications, medical equipment and insurance. The Japanese say they promised only to measure progress so far, not to set targets, which they frown on as "managed trade".

Yesterday's summit was to have been the first twice-yearly US-Japanese meeting to monitor whether adequate trade progress was being made. Instead, the session took place under the threat of American punitive countermeasures that could range from anti-trust lawsuits to sanctions against particular Japanese goods.

Jobs are at the heart of Mr Clinton's concerns. Economists estimate that every boost of $1 billion in US exports creates 20,000 jobs. American industries whose domestic markets are close to saturation look enviously at the opportunities in Japan.

As an example of the American complaints, foreign cars account for only 3 per cent of Japanese sales, while on average 20 per cent of European and US cars are imported. Washington says the outlook would improve if exclusive links between Japanese car dealers and manufacturers could be broken, along with burdensome import regulations. The Japanese say that Detroit has never considered the small-car needs of, say, the average Tokyo housewife, even neglecting to offer right-hand drive vehicles.

Foreign firms have only 2 per cent of Japan's insurance market, the world's second largest, yet foreign insurers in the United States and Europe can reckon on 10 to 30 per cent of the market. In telecommunications, only 5 per cent of Japan's purchases of satellite equipment, switches and telephones go to foreign firms. The Clinton Administration wants imports to have as big a share of the Japanese market by 2000 as they already have in the other G7 nations.

Rush on rice

Tokyo: Imported rice, long banned here, made a great debut yesterday as hundreds of Japanese bought out the available supply within hours, judging it to be little different from the domestic product.

It was the first time the Japanese had had a chance to buy foreign rice since Japan allowed emergency imports because of a poor harvest and an agreement to allow limited rice imports as part of the Uruguay Round of trade talks concluded last year.

A Tokyo supermarked sold its first 1,000 4½lb bags in four hours; each bag cost 750 yen (£4.70), about half the price of domestic rice. *(AFP)*



President Clinton with the Florida State University football team during a White House ceremony. The team was invited to Washington after their victory over the University of Nebraska in the Orange Bowl

Mandela recalls his lost years on visit to Robben Island jail

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

A GROUP of elderly ex-convicts stood and blinked in the brilliant summer sunshine as yesterday they revisited Robben Island, the prison in which they had spent nearly two decades. They stood around the most famous former prisoner of them all, Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, now likely to be the next President of South Africa.

A horde of pressmen and television crews, each desperate for the key picture or telling quotation, clustered round, urging the former inmates to re-enact moments from their incarceration. Many were happy to do so, as they visited the quarry where they had laboured or the gardens where they grew vegetables to supplement the prison diet of two bowls of maize porridge a day.

Older inmates like Walter Sisulu, 81, the ANC deputy president, or Ahmed Kathrada, 64, an election candidate, recalled how they had hidden contraband vegetables from their guards.

Mr Mandela grew wistful, however, when he recalled that he was not allowed to attend his mother's funeral, or the funeral of his eldest son, killed in a car crash. With a slight catch in his voice, he recalled saying goodbye to his mother on a visit in 1969. "I looked at her as she walked to the harbour. I had the feeling that I had seen her for the last time," he said.

The ANC president recalled the hardship of working in the limestone quarries and what he called the psychological pressures applied by some guards. He said he would sometimes hear news of problems faced by his family outside because warders had left press cuttings for him to read.

"That was very painful," he said. "The wounds you cannot see are the more painful." He recalled other occasional brutal acts by warders. But he said some guards treated their prisoners well because they had realised that one day the blacks would rule.

As he visited his old cell, a tiny and oppressive cube in which he spent longer than most men spend in any one place, reporters and cameramen were allowed in two by two to question him. He allowed that he could — just — lie down full-length in the cell, and that the bleak lime-green walls did not need decoration. "All the pictures I needed were inside my soul," he said.

Govan Mbeki, 83, looking at the breathtaking view of Cape Town and Table Mountain across the bay, declared: "It is good to be here as a free man." Mr Sisulu insisted that the sacrifice was worthwhile. "The ANC would not be where it is today without it," he said.

The former prisoners were welcomed by guards like returning heroes. They were given a chicken lunch at the island's guest house, under the unforgiving eye of a portrait of Adriaan Vlok, the Correctional Services Minister. One excited warder had Mr Mandela autograph two bottles of homemade wine.

Mr Mandela was first given a jail sentence in 1962 and transferred to Robben Island in June 1964.

Jackie Onassis treated for cancer

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JACQUELINE Kennedy Onassis, President Kennedy's widow, has cancer and is receiving chemotherapy, her spokeswoman has disclosed.

Mrs Onassis who, at 64, is still hotly pursued by the American tabloid press, has been diagnosed as having non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of cancer that affects the lymphatic system.

According to the American Cancer Society more than half those diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma live at least five years, and the survival rate rises the earlier the condition is treated.

Mrs Onassis's condition was apparently discovered early after she was afflicted by flu-like symptoms and there was "every expectation" that the treatment would be successful, Nancy Tuckerman, the Kennedy family spokeswoman, told *The New York Times* in an interview designed to end rumours about the former First Lady's health. "There is an excellent prognosis. You can never be absolutely sure but the doctors are very, very optimistic."

Mrs Onassis is still working three days a week at Doubleday publishers in New York, where she is a senior editor of books on the performing arts, and spends the rest of the week working on manuscripts in her Manhattan apartment.



Onassis: doctors are "very optimistic"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italian tycoon's brother arrested

Rome: The rise of Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and Forza Italia leader, was thrown into question yesterday when police arrested his younger brother, Paolo, on corruption charges (John Phillips writes).

Paolo Berlusconi, 44, surrendered to the police in Milan after Judge Antonio Di Pietro issued a warrant for his arrest on suspicion of paying bribes worth more than one billion lire (£400,000) to officials of the largest Italian savings bank in return for buying property on a housing estate developed by the brothers. He denies paying any bribes.

Aid squabbles

Harare: The vital airlift of food to thousands besieged in Angolan cities, either by the rebel Unita movement or government forces, was in trouble as the protagonists argued about flight clearances for the aid agencies.

Memorial visit

Tokyo: Emperor Akihito will visit Iwo Jima, scene of one of the bloodiest Second World War battles between US and Japanese troops, today. He will pay his respects to the 20,000 Japanese troops and civilians killed there. *(Reuter)*

Family killings

Seoul: Choi Won Ho, a South Korean separated from his wife, shot dead her mother, sister, brother-in-law and young niece and nephew before killing himself. His wife and her brother were badly injured. *(Reuter)*

Ghanaians flee

Lomé: More than 6,000 Ghanaians have fled to northern Togo in the past week to escape ethnic fighting, the Red Cross said. A state of emergency is in force in northern Ghana. *(Reuter)*

Naked anger

Paris: A Zairean stripped in front of the presidential palace here to protest at France's refusal to grant him residence, police said. He was charged with public indecency. *(AFP)*

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THE TIMES
AT 30P IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR A GREAT NEWSPAPER

Fifteen years after the Shah's overthrow, ayatollahs strengthen their hold on the state

Iran caught in Islamic tide

BY HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

SECURITY was tightened yesterday as Iran marked the fifteenth anniversary of its Islamic revolution under the shadow of the recent attempt on the life of President Rafsanjani.

Millions were on the streets in celebration, official reports said, but there was precious little to celebrate as they chanted the time-worn slogans of "Death to America, death to Israel".

The President told the people: "Thousands of hostile eyes and ears are watching and listening today, hoping to learn that the people have lost interest in the revolution." But if the slogans are the same, Islamicisation of the country is continuing apace.

Last September an Islamic judge in south Tehran announced that he had found two brothers guilty of the abduction and burning to death of another man, but would not be sending the murderers to prison because they are Muslims, whereas their victim had been an unbeliever, a member of the "heretical" Bahai sect. Nor would he award to the family of the dead man the traditional blood money as compensation. His statement graphically illustrated how far the ruling clergy has travelled in Islamicising the state.

Yet in the build-up to this week's celebrations, the President told a Friday prayer meeting in Tehran that he worried over "the lack of enthusiasm for the revolution among the people". Ayatollah Ali Meshkini, Speaker of the Contitutional Assembly of Experts, said that "only a handful of university teachers and scientists" nowadays attended official prayer meetings.



Ali Khamenei: let loose boys' army on streets

According to the President, the situation was made worse by sections of the press which published erroneous statistics "to depress the people". One newspaper, *Salam*, agreed that Iran did suffer from a dearth of reliable statistics, but it was not the task of the press to ascertain the accuracy of figures issued by ministerial spokesmen. The newspaper added that no ministry appeared to know even the country's population, let alone its rate of growth. Thus inflation may, or may not, be 60 per cent, and about half the adult male population — women are not supposed to seek work — may, or may not, be unemployed.

What is certain is that the government is broke. Last year its revenues from the sale of oil, which provides 85 per cent of the country's exchange earnings, fell about 20 per cent short of expectation and pushed its total debt above $30 billion (£20 billion).

The President also faces a dilemma over relations with the West. The Iranians, heirs to the diplomatic wisdom of old Persia, believe that harming foreign envoys is to be avoided. It is part of their national mythology that, if their ancestor in 1218 had not killed a group of Mongol envoys, perhaps the subsequent destruction of the Middle East and Eurasia would have been avoided.

The violation of that basic principle in 1979, when Ayatollah Khomeini's followers climbed the walls of the American Embassy in Tehran and took its diplomats hostage, showed the extent of the break between the new Iran and old Persia. The clergy-led mobs held 52 citizens of a superpower — America — for 444 days. In the end, Iran was forced to release the diplomats and suffer the loss of several billion dollars in cash and arms held in the West.

After Khomeini's death in 1989, Hojatoleslam Ali Khamenei, official successor as the spiritual leader of the state, became an ambitious and powerful rival to the President. He moved quickly to establish himself as the commander of all the country's armed forces, and ordered onto the streets a militia of zealous teenage boys, the dreaded Basej army, to enforce a strict model of Islamic behaviour among citizens, particularly women. To salvage his authority, the President began to compete with the ayatollah in extremism.

He increased support for the military regime of Sudan in its persecution of the Christians and animists of the south, ordered a massive rearmament programme that included the purchase of three submarines from Russia, and sent intelligence chiefs to Europe to assassinate exiled Iranian opponents. At present, such is Iran's opposition to the peace talks between the Arabs and Israel, even President Assad of Syria is distancing himself from Tehran. Almost every day brings evidence that the President's power is further eroding. This week Hojatoleslam Khamenei increased the number of Baseej militia on the streets to 300,000. The prospects for Iran's return to co-existence with the rest of the world seem bleak and the President may be losing control of his Cabinet.



Ayatollah Khomeini, who led the anti-Shah battle, depicted in a poster as the saviour of Iran watching "the struggle of the people" for an Islamic revolution

Premier rescues children from Cook the 'invader'

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

With Paul Keating, Australia's republican Prime Minister, advocating the axing of constitutional ties with Britain, it was only a matter of time before history was rewritten according to a politically correct version of the country's past.

So this week it was nearly goodbye to Captain Cook and his crew of "pioneers" and "discoverers". Even the term "explorer" was deemed unacceptable by the Queensland education authority, whose teacher notes on history were to have been included in a primary school sourcebook.

As far as the authors were concerned, the British were a hostile force intent on imposing their rule on a native population who were to be dispossessed of their land at any cost. Until now school books have referred to Cook's arrival in Botany Bay as the beginning of white settlement.

Amid the debate over the guidelines, Wayne Goss, Queensland's Labour Premier, stepped in and ordered politically correct references to be dropped in favour of more neutral language. He was angered by the word "invasion" and the fact that teachers were to be advised that such terminology was preferred.

"I think that just about all Australians would not regard what happened in 1788 as an invasion," he said. "There is a world of difference between the First Fleet and what most people understand as an invasion."

He insisted that he was not minimising the impact of the British or the way they sometimes treated Aborigines, but history had to be explained honestly.

Mr Goss's attack on what a Sydney newspaper called "a blatant attempt to distort history" has been widely welcomed. Australia has suffered its fair share of political correctness.

State and federal governments have introduced so many anti-discrimination laws that almost everybody is catered for, except those of British descent. It is still within the law to call someone a "Pommy bastard" but "Wog", "Abbo" or "Chink" are strictly illegal. Feminists who defaced an advertising billboard for lingerie were praised by Ms Pat O'Shane, a Sydney magistrate.

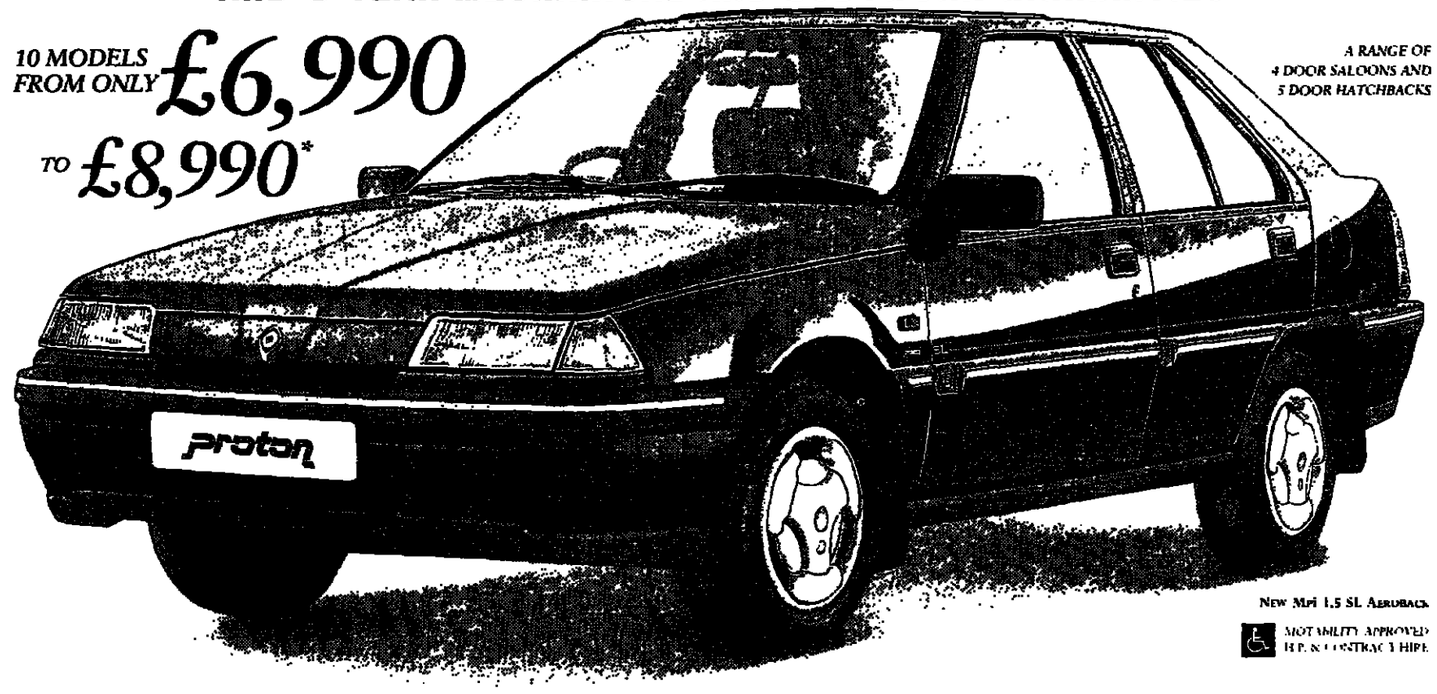
But just occasionally political correctness comes a cropper. Last year Aborigines in Queensland shocked animal rights activists when they strapped an echidna to a car, claiming that the taste of the hedgehog-like creature — regarded as a delicacy — improved with travel.

The activists were aghast when the Aborigines said it was part of their tradition.

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Russians to usher John Major round market showplace

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN NIZHNY NOVGOROD

■ A bright young physicist has thrust a backward region to the forefront of market economy. His reformist ideas are being acclaimed as a model for all Russia



Konstantin Borovoy, businessman-turned-politician, holding a dollar note which he sells for roubles while picketing the Duma yesterday in his campaign to win an amnesty for "economic prisoners". Five hundred former businessmen are held in jail for profiteering

THE Dmitrevsky delicatessen on Nizhny Novgorod's main boulevard is a rare treat in the joyless world of Russian shopping. The tiny cellar store is scrubbed clean and well-laid out with individual counters stocking a variety of cheeses, confectionery, teas and coffees and herbs. The lady at the chocolate section wishes customers a cheery "good morning" and describes unfamiliar products to curious customers.

The scene, which will be witnessed by John Major on his trip to Russia next week, is a far cry from the gloomy state grocery stores that, although better stocked due to price liberalisation in early 1992, retain their Soviet grime and indifference and an awful lot pleasanter than frequenting the shoddy, mafia-run kiosks which have doubled the eye-sore rating on Moscow's main streets.

Nizhny Novgord, one of Russia's main river ports before the 1917 revolution, has rediscovered its entrepreneurial tradition, turning itself into the model of grassroots economic reform. The delicatessen made local history as the first small outlet to be sold off a year ago. Since then the regional administration has auctioned off 300 small and medium-scale retail outlets and services with the help of the International Finance Corporation, the private funding arm of the World Bank.

Mr Major will join a stream of Western visitors to the city to see the fruits of reform. For the city, formerly Gorky and closed to foreigners because of its military-industrial complex producing MiG jets, nuclear submarines and radar equipment, the transition to a model of market progress comes after decades of isolation.

Boris Nemtsov, a bright young physicist, was a junior researcher at the radio physics institute when he met Andrei Sakharov, the dissident physicist, when he was exiled here, and fell into the orbit of critical intellectuals. Now, after one of those curious biographical shifts which have taken place among the intelligentsia since the fall of communism, he is the governor of Nizhny Novgorod region. At 34, with a mop of unruly dark hair and an irreverent manner entirely untypical of Russian provincial governors, Mr Nemtsov is more often to be found in jeans and a leather jacket than the sober grey suits of his peers in office in other regions. Together with Grigori Yavlinsky, the reform economist, Mr Nemtsov devised the plan to set Nizhny Novgorod on the road to market with an energy unrivalled in the rest of the country. He says that he has no intention of heading to Moscow to further his career just yet, but the boyish charm does not conceal his zeal for power. Mr Nemtsov has set about trying to remove the "red directors" at vast companies such as Gaz, the largest factory in Europe which manufactures Volga cars and trucks to pave the way to eventual sell-offs of at least parts of the pride of Soviet industry which he disdains as "these monsters". Comparing the moods in Moscow and Nizhny Novgorod, Mr Major will find the old Russian roles of progressive capital and backward provinces have been reversed.



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'Crazy count' of Sweden quits

FROM NICHOLAS GEORGE IN STOCKHOLM

COUNT Ian Wachtmeister's sudden resignation as leader of New Democracy, the right-wing populist party that holds the balance of power in the Swedish parliament, has caught even the party's inner circle unprepared.

The showmanship of the announcement was typical of the "crazy count", but his motives reflected the deeper problems of the "Swedish model". Count Wachtmeister believes that Sweden needs harsh austerity measures and cuts in welfare spending, a view echoed this week by the annual OECD report on the nation's economy which said that levels of public spending had surpassed the nation's ability to pay.

Swedes certainly have much to lose: unemployment and sick pay run at 80 per cent of income, there is a generous pension system and an excellent health service. The problem is that the basic guarantees of the system — full employment and economic growth — have disappeared. If those on government schemes are included, unemployment stands at 13 per cent.

Count Wachtmeister and his lieutenant, Bert Karlsson, a fairground owner, had made much of such problems. Touring the country, they shook up the traditionally staid techniques of Swedish politics, dancing around on stages wearing shellsuits and explaining the extent of the deficit using beer crates. However, as a protest party that soon became identified with anti-immigrant feelings, there had never been much clear policy.

That would not have mattered if the 1991 election had not left Sweden with a conservative-led, four-party, coalition minority government that relies on New Democracy to survive.

The coalition government under Carl Bildt, the conservative Prime Minister, has trimmed the edges of the welfare state, but most Swedes, including members of the governing coalition, are proud of a social system that has provided benefits such as 12-months-plus paternity leave on 80 per cent pay. If present opinion polls are proved true at September's general election, then New Democracy will fail to break the 4 per cent threshold needed to enter parliament.



Bildt: has trimmed the edges of welfare state

Italian, 52, has twins without fertility aids

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

AN ITALIAN woman aged 52 has given birth to twins, without artificial methods, after trying in vain all her married life to have children, doctors said yesterday.

"I wouldn't call it a miracle, but it's very unusual," said Dr Luciano Cortellessa, the gynaecologist who delivered Maria Torrano's twins by Caesarean section in Lagonegro, in the southern province of Potenza, on Tuesday. "This is a couple who have been married for 26 years. They tried fertility cures at other times, but not recently."

He added: "The pregnancy reached its conclusion without major problems and the twins and their mother are doing fine." He said Signora Torrano and her husband, Domenico, 64, are peasants of modest means and apparently without extended families. "But for the moment they are just very happy."

Dr Cortellessa said he believed greater longevity in Italy and other Western countries meant women could give birth to children at older ages than before: "Today women in general go into menopause five or ten years later than 20 years ago."

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UN commander brushes aside 'renegades' and starts deploying ceasefire observers

Rose hopeful as handover of guns gets under way

■ John Major said he was delighted that the Sarajevo ceasefire was holding. Nevertheless, dependants of British diplomats in Belgrade are being pulled out

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Bosnian Serbs handed over the first batch of an estimated 500 heavy guns to United Nations Protection Force (Unprofor) troops in Sarajevo yesterday, with nine days to go before Nato bombers are due to start air strikes.

As five artillery pieces were put under Unprofor control at a Serb barracks in the suburb of Lukavica, Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, commander of the 12,000 Unprofor troops in Bosnia, said he had "grounds for optimism" that the ceasefire agreed on Wednesday would stick, despite a brief burst of shelling the previous night.

General Rose believed that the small number of artillery and mortar rounds had been the work of renegade units. "It seems quite extraordinary that renegade military units are attempting to sabotage the ceasefire and thus prolong the suffering of their own people in Sarajevo," he said.

Unprofor troops spread out around Sarajevo yesterday, as the ceasefire appeared to be



holding. General Rose said that as the troops established themselves "the situation will stabilise". The soldiers from French units had been told not to withdraw from their positions. More than 250 French Unprofor soldiers took part in supervising the weapon withdrawals, patrols of the city, as well as in manning eight observation posts. General Rose said renegades would become easier to identify as more Unprofor troops fanned out around the city. He added: "Although things won't proceed smoothly, I believe there are some grounds for optimism now which probably did not exist before."

John Major, who is going to Moscow next week and will seek to win approval from President Yeltsin for Nato's air strikes ultimatum, said he was delighted that the ceasefire appeared to be holding.

With the possibility of air strikes, however, the Foreign Office said yesterday that dependants of the eleven diplomats at the British embassy in Belgrade had been given the option to leave the country this weekend, as "a prudent precaution to minimise the risk". Some of the families will fly out today to Budapest. A "beefed-up" warning is also being given to British citizens in Belgrade to stay only if their presence is absolutely essential.

As General Rose urged Serb military and political leaders to stop sporadic ceasefire violations, President Clinton finally succeeded in getting through on the telephone to President Yeltsin to explain why Nato was threatening air strikes. The Russian President told Mr Clinton that he was prepared to play a role in the peace negotiations to end the conflict in Bosnia, the White House said.

The United Nations Security Council was to have met last night after Russia's request for an emergency meeting to discuss Bosnia, but the meeting was postponed until Monday because of a snow storm in New York.

The handover of only a few weapons yesterday was seen as more of a symbolic gesture. The Serb action was matched by the Muslim-dominated Bosnian government forces, which also handed over heavy guns at the Marshal Tito barracks in central Sarajevo.

Neither handover ceremony appeared to meet Nato's demand that all artillery and mortars should be withdrawn 20 kilometres (13 miles) from Sarajevo. As part of the ceasefire deal announced on Wednesday, General Rose gained an oral agreement from the Serbs only to put their heavy weapons under UN control, not to move them out of range of the Bosnian capital.

As the Geneva peace talks resumed yesterday without any immediate progress, the apparent threat to aid workers issued by a senior Serb military commander, which led to Britain's suspension of aid convoys, was lifted. Bosnian Serb authorities promised free movement for foreign UN humanitarian workers. Three people detained in Banja Luka in northern Bosnia are expected to leave the country.

In preparation for possible Nato air strikes, the French carrier *Foch* was sent from Toulon to the Adriatic to be on standby. On board are 20 Super-Etendard fighter bombers.



The despair of a Sarajevo hospital graphically captured in a photograph by Luc Delahaye, a Frenchman, for which he won a first prize in the World Press Photo Contest

How the humiliation factor forced Nato's hand

BY LAWRENCE FREEDMAN

TOUGHENING of the Western position on air strikes on behalf of Sarajevo has been the most prominent new development of the past week, but it may not be the most important.

A month ago the Americans were essentially saying that they had little more to discuss with their allies on Bosnia: now they are re-engaged.

The Europeans have been exasperated with the Americans for neither taking firm steps to back the largely-Muslim Bosnian government, nor disabusing them of the notion that serious help is on its way. Washington has encouraged the Muslims to reject anything approaching the current partition plan as devised by Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, but without offering a realistic alternative. More cynical Europeans suspect that this has been because they do not want to face providing ground troops after a settlement.

For their part, Americans suspect the Europeans of trying to associate them with an unjust settlement or with empty threats. President Clinton has seen calls for air strikes as a set-up. When he nibbles at the bait another country provides the veto or the Serbs back off for a moment and, once again, nothing happens.

The resulting cynicism surrounding Western threats has become a factor in the decision-making. Nato had adjusted to low-level humiliation by the Serbs, but a tragedy of Saturday's dimensions moved into high-level humiliation. Nato's credibility could not withstand further prevarication.

As usual, the Serbs moved swiftly before Nato had actually agreed on its ultimatum. The United Nations force moved smartly to follow the agreement through. If the past pattern of promises — forgotten once pressure is off — is not to be repeated, Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose needs to be able to remind the Serbs that from now on a Nato strike is a telephone call away.

However, if there has been a breakthrough its exploitation depends on moving troops to fill the spaces evacuated by withdrawing artillery. The current policy is a consequence of the safe areas resolution adopted by the UN last summer. If it is now to be implemented, the 7,500 troops which were requested but never found will have to materialise.

It is not as if the Serbs are dependent upon artillery bombardments to make their points. This week has also given them some confidence that Russia is becoming more supportive and should be able to veto hostile Security Council resolutions with any teeth, such as the lifting of the arms embargo.

Serbia has concluded that there is little chance of the Americans allowing the sanctions to be lifted, so it is becoming systematic about their circumvention.

The embargo prevents the Bosnian government getting heavy weapons, but light arms are now getting through. It is not short of manpower, and hopes to be able to hold existing territory and continue to regain some taken by the Croats.

The Bosnian Croats have been brazenly reinforced from neighbouring Croatia and may hope to be able to mount a spring offensive to reverse their recent losses.

So the war seems no closer to a conclusion. At any given time, two of the parties might be happy to call a halt on the status quo, but a third has always suspected that with one more push the status quo might be improved on.

With this gloomy prognosis, those countries contributing UN troops have been wondering aloud if it is wise to provide food and medical supplies to all three armies, as well as to their long-suffering populations. Should their troops be removed in the spring? If the Americans will never back a UN peace plan based on current thinking in Geneva, why persevere with the exercise?

However, in return for Nato bracing itself for tougher action, President Clinton accepted that he could no longer stand aloof from the diplomatic process. The Bosnian government believes that this will ensure a push in a more favourable direction. And then, if the Americans do throw their weight behind a particular arrangement, and the potential for air support has gone as far as it can, the Muslims may well be forced to conclude that they have little choice but to sign up.

There is a precedent the Bosnian government might bear in mind. In December 1972 the United States launched the most ferocious bombing campaign of the Vietnam War, with waves of B52s blasting Hanoi and Haiphong. This was the last American operation of the war. President Nixon claimed he was putting pressure on North Vietnam, but his real target was the South. He used his display to persuade Saigon that it could safely accept the peace accord, which was actually almost complete before the bombing. Within a month the accord was signed and Washington left Saigon to its fate. President Nixon's strategy had been to ensure a decent interval between American withdrawal and Communist victory.

Whether Bosnia is left to its fate after a negotiated settlement will depend on a recognition that this cannot be the end of Western responsibility.

Serbs withdraw threat to aid workers

FROM TIM JUDAH IN PALE AND ADAM LEBOR IN ZAGREB

AFTER veiled threats that aid workers might be held hostage by Bosnian Serbs in the case of Nato air strikes, General Milovan Milovanovic, the army chief of staff, said staff of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who wanted to leave "would be given clearance" to do so.

Confusion arose after UN staff in Bosnia-Herzegovina were called for consultations in Belgrade and Zagreb to meet Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, who will be visiting next week. It is now apparent that Serb officials interpreted this as an emergency evacuation and moved to block it.

For 24 hours UNHCR staff had problems leaving areas under Bosnian Serb control. Ljubisa Vladusic, the Serbian Refugee Commissioner, said no order had been given to prevent anybody from leaving, but there had been a crackdown on UN officials who did not have proper paperwork.

General Milan Gvero, General Milovanovic's deputy commander, had threatened that in the case of air strikes nationals of countries whose planes had participated "would stay among us". This had raised the vision of human shields. Lyndall Sachs, the UNHCR spokeswoman in Belgrade, said that following General Milovanovic's statement the matter was no longer an issue.

UN relief officials pledged yesterday that the aid operation to Bosnia will continue and denied that any staff in Serb-occupied Bosnia were being evacuated. "We are there and we are not leaving. It's business as usual," said Christiane Berthiaume, the UNHCR spokeswoman in Geneva.

Convoys had also resumed, aid officials said. Three convoys left from the UN warehouses at Metkovic, two to Zenica in central Bosnia and one to Tuzla in the north. In Belgrade supplies were being loaded for eastern Bosnia and Tuzla.

American dream killed coffee seller

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

IF IGOR Rehar had nothing else to propel him through the physical and mental devastation around him, he at least had his dream of one day going to America.

That dream was why he was in the Sarajevo market last Saturday. He died that day because he wanted to see America.

"He was smiling when he died," said his father, Davor, a painter. "He was talking to someone and the shell hit two metres from him." Just after noon last Saturday, that single mortar shell — about the size of a pineapple — killed Igor, 21, and 67 other people. About 200 were wounded.

Accounts of the worst single massacre of the 22-month war have been the driving force behind the international community's most effective initiative. Following the threat of Nato air strikes, the guns around Sarajevo have fallen eerily quiet.

"It's a terrible thing to say," Victor Andreev, the United Nations senior political officer in Bosnia, said. "But the massacre helped us move ahead."

Those in the city, however, are confused about why the nearly 10,000 Sarajevans killed before last weekend did not spur a response.

"We don't need an intervention," sobbed Igor's fiancée, Mirela Mesihovic, 19. "It is too late to bring him back. I planned to be with him all my life, what now?"

Igor's father broke in: "For my family the war is finished. Naturally we have to continue fighting for Ines [Igor's sister], but nothing can put our hearts back together."

Igor spent six days a week in the market, selling cups of coffee. He had saved $2,000 (£1,300) and given almost as much to his family.

"He needed to do it to go to America," sobbed Davor. "He wanted a Big Mac, a Coke, and small French fries. He didn't want a Cadillac. He didn't want Dynasty. He just wanted liberty and a Big Mac."

Siren voices of Slavic solidarity tempt Russians once more

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

IF THE Russian government does react to air strikes in Bosnia by ending its quasi-partnership with the West and returning to an attitude of hostility, it would not be the first time that Russia had sacrificed itself for the Serbs.

In July 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was murdered in Sarajevo and his assassination led to the First World War: the Russian Empire went to war in support of Serb resistance to Austria-Hungary, even though this resistance had involved regicide. In 1877, Russia had also gone to war, but more successfully, in support of Serbian independence from Turkey.

For more than two years, Russian hardline nationalists and Communists have been drawing parallels with 1914 and issuing warnings that a Nato attack on the Serbs would provoke another world war. Even centrist supporters of President Yeltsin, such as Sergei Shakhrai, the Deputy Prime Minister, have joined their number.

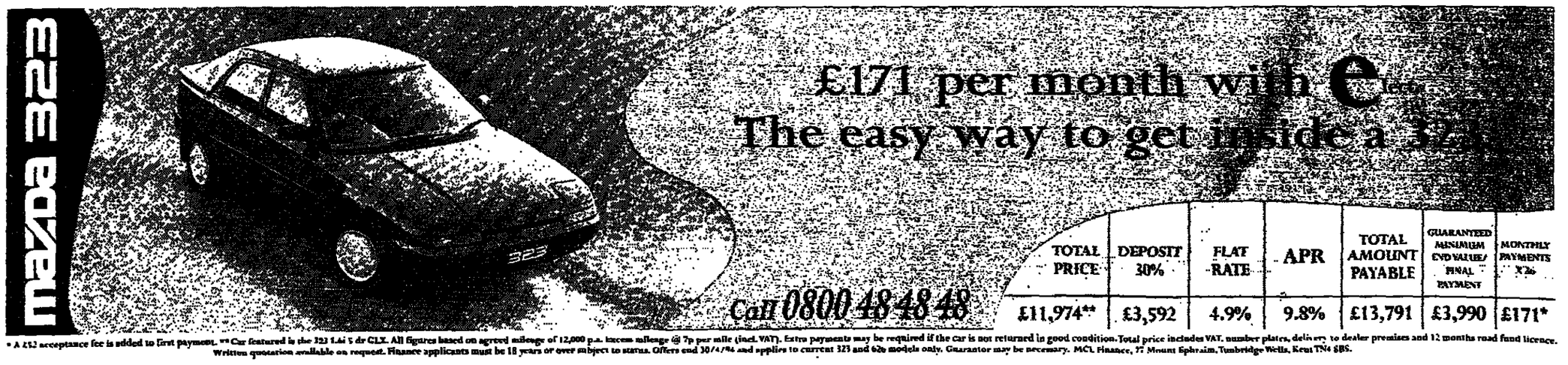
Viewed with hindsight, the Russian decision to back Serbia in 1914 was obviously an appalling mistake, but Russian leaders today have learnt nothing from the experience. Hardline nationalists simply regurgitate the rhetoric of Slav or Orthodox solidarity that their ancestors used 80 years ago. At some level, a genuine tradition of this solidarity does exist: after the fall of the Byzantine Empire in 1453, Moscow claimed leadership of the Orthodox world and the right and duty to protect Orthodox Christians everywhere.

From the 19th century, to this was added the quasi-racial ideology of pan-Slavism, which aimed at the unity of all Slavic peoples under Russian leadership. To throw their net even wider, the pan-Slavs tended to throw in the Orthodox, non-Slav peoples for good measure, even though most of these nations were at each other's throat.

Many Russians today draw a close parallel between the position of Serbia and their own. Serbia, like Russia, was the chief part of a multi-national Communist federal state, the collapse of which left millions of Serbs stranded outside Serbia's borders. Russia, like Serbia, is hostile to outside intervention in "its" regions. Most ordinary Russians do not feel this strong identification with Serbia. They have more important things, such as economic survival, on their minds. The general feeling over Bosnia is: this is where Russia must now make a stand. In the Russian government, this is increased by resentment that, by avoiding the United Nations Security Council, Nato is depriving Russia of one of the last forums where it can still behave as a world power.



Ferdinand: murder led Russians into war



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Peter Barnard says the public cares not about winners and losers, but about the scandal and controversy surrounding sport

Cheats and bounders are more fun

When last year's Grand National contrived to have two starts but no finish, the usual period of teeth-gnashing for another collapsed British institution was interrupted by an outbreak of sanity in a letter to *The Times*. The writer wondered what all the fuss was about: he had not enjoyed a Grand National so much in years.

This droll response none the less put a finger on the true meaning of sport, a meaning that will once again be writ large next week when the Winter Olympics open in Lillehammer, Norway. For purists, sport is an esoteric thing of back pages and Sunday afternoon television slots, of old-fashioned saloon bars and aluminium urns dispensing Bovril at the back of draughty grandstands. True modern sport, on the other hand, is a device as much to do with scandal and farce as it is with coming first or last.

Face it: who really cares about the downhill slalom and the ice dance? The International Olympic Committee, the Mayor of Lillehammer, Alan Weeks, David Vine, the Controller of BBC 2 and, er... that's about it. What the rest of us care about is whether Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan will face each other off-ice wielding crowbars.

Already the scene is set, with writs flying and dollar signs flashing on the foreheads of grinning lawyers. Harding's ex-husband is charged with having planned the attack on her rival. Kerrigan, the question being whether Harding knew what was going on. For sure this will run a lot longer than some synchronised snowball fighting in a Norwegian wood.

'Twas ever thus. Boxing is notorious as a triumph of hype over experience, but the fight game is far from the only arena in which scandal is big box office. Indeed boxing has been short of major scandal since the former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson went to jail, where he is said to have taken up reading Socrates as a means of learning that attacking women in the bedroom is not normally categorised alongside attacking men in the ring.

Perhaps the poor man was confused. After all, just about any sensational behaviour short of actually winning will get you noticed in sport. Ask Wendy Sly. Who she? Quite so. Wendy Sly of Britain went to the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 and won the silver medal in the 3,000 metres. Nobody noticed. When Sly breasted the tape, the crowd was still baying for the blood of Zola Budd, the multi-passported barefoot runner who had somehow become entangled with the all-American heroine Mary Decker-Slaney.

Decker-Slaney finished up rolling around in agony and Budd finished nowhere. The furore was such that slow-motion replays of the clash outnumbered slow-motion replays of the actual finish by about 50 to 1. The notoriety earned Budd £90,000 for a rematch with Decker-Slaney at Crystal Palace the following year. Again, neither runner won. That race, incidentally, was staged by no less a figure than Mr Andy Norman, whose place in the wider public consciousness has lately been assured by allegations over what he did or did not say to the late athletics writer Cliff Temple.

As for who actually won at Los Angeles and Crystal Palace, this is the Schleswig-Holstein question of athletics: of the three people who know the answer, one is dead, one has forgotten and the third won't answer the phone.

Some sports are more susceptible to scandal than others. Boxing, athletics and football are the most reliable, whereas no journalist ever made a living trying to get golf onto the tabloid front pages. The probable reason is that golf is a solitary inner battle between the mind and the body, in which the tensions spill inwards. Other sports are by their nature more communal, more possessed of their followers.

Football provided a classic example in 1970, when England went to the World Cup finals in Mexico. En route they played a warm-up game in Bogota and after it the team flew on to Guadalajara minus their distinguished captain, the late Bobby Moore. He was in jail.

Moore had been fitted up, as the jargon goes — accused of stealing a bracelet. The charge was a nonsense, but images of the fair-haired, clean-living English hero of 1966 briefly incarcerated in a South American jail greatly beefed up interest in the tournament. When Moore got home, he was asked not why England were turned over by West Germany in the quarter-finals, but why he had been turned in by a Colombian.

Cricket used to be more or less sensation-proof, but in 15 years Ian Botham changed that almost single-handed. He eclipsed all other cricketing matters when he was suspended by the game's authorities after admitting using cannabis in 1986. Even at 35,000 ft over Australia, Botham contrived to write a tabloid headline when he was accused of roughing-up a fellow airline passenger. He was sacked by Queensland, not for his performances but for the bad publicity he generated.

Only dedicated followers remember much about England's 1987 Test series in Pakistan, but even those who have trouble distinguishing bat from stump recall the allegation that Mike Gatting called an umpire a f****** cheat, a fandango which at one stage involved telegrams between the Foreign Office and the British High Commission.

Would Cassius Clay, who was turning into Mohammed Ali at the time, have been quite the star he became without four years out of the game for refusing to fight in Vietnam? Few recall the 1987 Boat Race, but most remember the pre-race mutiny by members of the crew against the Oxford president. Ben Johnson would not have lasted long as "the fastest man in the world", but as the fastest man on drugs he is assured of a place in history.

Snooker, the most modern of television spectacles, is an essentially boring spectator sport sustaining its public interest via occasional drugs scandals (something to do with maintaining a steady cuing action, or so they tell us) and the soap-opera script played out in the unreal life of Alex Higgins. He is a near-perfect example of what the sports writers love to call "flawed genius" (see also Gascoigne, P., Best, G. *et al*).

Scandal is the temptress attending sport and now Lillehammer flashes an ankle. Torvill and Dean are likely to disappoint, now that longstanding rumours that they are a couple as well as a pair have proved unfounded. Harding? Kerrigan? Or an as-yet-unknown ski-jumper who turns out to be even higher on a substance that is not exactly snow? Hold that front page.

Daniel Johnson, literary editor, says readers are turning from modern fiction back to the classics

Have you read an old book lately?

So we have not quite lost the taste for the classic English novelists. However deplorable the vulgarisation of literature by cinema and television, serious screen adaptations are advertisements for the original work. Riding on the back of the BBC series which began last month, George Eliot's *Middlemarch* now heads the fiction bestseller lists. Hollywood's *The Age of Innocence*, starring Daniel Day-Lewis and directed by Martin Scorsese, is providing a similar tonic for sales of Edith Wharton's novels.

Is it true that most people will only be persuaded to take an interest in an Eliot or a Wharton by the mass deployment of promotion and hype, cult actors, production values and glitzy merchandising? The Victorian middle classes, whom Matthew Arnold called philistines, did not need such incentives to persuade them to read George Eliot, even though her irregular union with G.H. Lewes (who was already married) was considered risqué. They were not put off even when she inscribed the manuscript of *Middlemarch*: "To my dear Husband, George Henry Lewes, in this nineteenth year of our blessed union."

Literary culture always was skin-deep in Britain, but in the late 20th century it has been stretched ever thinner over the subcutaneous stupor of boorish ignorance and resentful anti-élitism. Plenty of otherwise well-educated people actually prefer to exist on a plane where the merits of intellectual life in general, never mind the acquisition of a degree of erudition oneself, are despised and ridiculed. To be well-read is no longer a passport to society, because there is no such thing as society and nobody could agree about what one would need to know to be well-read.

Britain is not, of course, unique in this respect. One eminent German writer, Günter Kunert, argued recently in the weekly *Die Zeit* that the marginalisation of literature has been caused by the extinction of the passionate, serious-minded reader. In communist East Germany, from which Kunert emigrated long before reunification, there was a kind of literary culture, albeit one warped by censorship and fear. Where the text is supreme — whether that text be the Bible, the Koran or *Das Kapital* — literature is treated with reverence.

But does it matter in what spirit people read good books, as long as they do so? The boom in the classics over the past few years has been demand-led. You can buy several versions of *Middlemarch* at the moment: only one of them (Penguin's at £3.99) has been reissued specially for the television series. Oxford World's Classics edition sells for £3.50 and the Norton is £8.95. Everyman's hardback is a frugal £9.99 (the same price as the Penguin Audiobook, read by Harriet Walter), while Oxford's sumptuous illustrated edition is £85. And these are only the editions in print.

Middlemarch was first published in 1871-72, in seven parts costing five shillings each. A cheap one-volume edition followed in 1873, costing 7s 6d; and by December 1874 the book had sold some 20,000 copies, not counting American and German editions. George Eliot herself was delighted with these sales, which were prodigious for the time. With *Middlemarch* her reputation reached its apogee. But its sales today dwarf those of last century. In the past month the Penguin edition alone has sold more than 80,000 copies.

The point about this revival in the classics is this: it is a popular revolt against the literary establishment, a kind of latter-day version of the long-drawn-out dispute between Ancients and Moderns in the late 17th and 18th centuries. If serious literary novelists will not give their reading public books that it enjoys, many members of that public will barricade themselves behind the solid old books and boycott the new.

Is this escapism, as the Moderns snarl? Or is it, as the Ancients retort, a return to the mainstream tradition which alone is capable of regenerating the contemporary novel?

The Victorians certainly did not subscribe to the present-day notion, widely accepted among the literary intelligentsia, that old books are necessarily dull. For the novel, above all, novelty has tended to be seen as a necessary attribute. More interesting than ignorance is the assumption that any book worth reading must be new. Each time Hollywood takes up a literary classic, it remakes the past in its own image. To leave literature as we find it is as intolerable to our meddlesome epoch as to leave an old picture or building in a ruinous, unrestored state.

> Where the text is supreme, literature is treated with reverence

Perhaps the most fashionable novelist this spring is the American Nicholson Baker, whose story about an amateur pornographer with the occult ability to stop time in order to act out his perverse fantasies, *The Fermata*, is published later this month. Since Rachel Cusk reviewed this work to damning effect in *The Times* two days ago, I shall not duplicate her analysis. Instead here is a passage in which Baker describes his narrator's girlfriend Rhody:

> Nineteenth century novels were all-important to her. It wasn't a question of her liking them: they were a neurological necessity, like sleep. One Mrs Humphry Ward, or a Reade, or a Trollope per week supplied her with some kind of critical co-enzyme, she said, that allowed her to organise social sense experience. It was nice if the novel was good, but even a very mediocre one would do: without a daily shot of Victorian fiction she couldn't quite remember how to talk to people and to understand what they said.

This patronising description suggests that a taste for literary classics is a kind of compulsive neurosis or addiction, to which only a socially inept or inadequate person could fall victim. Whereas reading the contrived obscenities of Nicholson Baker is presumed to be a perfectly normal activity.

It is not merely that George Eliot offers us fully rounded characters who develop over time, rather than Nicholson Baker's homogenised fanatasy girls; or that Eliot was not afraid to give *Middlemarch* the subtitle *A Study of Provincial Life*, whereas Baker subtitled his last book *A novel about telephone sex*. Curiosity about ourselves, which is the principal motivation for reading novels in the first place, might be expected to drive us in the direction of *Middlemarch* rather than *The Fermata*. And the evidence is that this is precisely what is happening.

Never too old for the job

The patronising benevolence of the State is now the great bugbear of ageing, finds **Anthony Howard**

The first intimation came at the public library. I had lost my reader's ticket and went to have it replaced. Sitting at the enquiry desk, I made out the routine application and the library assistant obligingly began to tap the details into the computer. Then her eyes lit on something and — cheerfully explaining, "Oh, I think we can stretch a point" — she started off all over again. When the card came out, it had the letters CS (standing presumably for "Senior Citizen" in reverse) initialled next to my name.

I was at that stage three weeks short of my 60th birthday, and she was in a sense doing me a good turn. Cassettes and compact discs, she explained, would cost nothing in future and there was even a promise of some reduction in reservation charges. Still, there was no denying it was a blow, all the worse for being unforeseen. I had known about the bus pass and the rail card, but this was something new. The State, via the local authority, had put its protective arm around me, whether I asked it to or not.

From the private sector, there later came another tactful alert — a letter from the insurance company I started paying into while I was still a slip of a lad, enquiring whether I was "contemplating retirement" (and, therefore, wanted to pick up my benefits). It was a perfectly legitimate question to ask: were I on the payroll of the Civil Service or the BBC, I would have been out on my ear this morning.

Nevertheless, both episodes left me feeling diminished. Somewhere behind the solicitude displayed in each case lurked the assumption that from now on — to borrow the words of Cyril Connolly about the young Alec Douglas-Home at Eton — I was "honourably ineligible for the struggles of life".

Alec Douglas-Home went on, of course, to become Prime Minister — and he was past 60 when he eventually arrived in No 10 (for that matter, he was 73 when he finally ceased to be Foreign Secretary in 1974). How much envy, I have always wondered, did that cause to members of the Diplomatic Service, even the luckier of whom automatically get the chop on attaining their 60th birthdays?

The truth is that in this country we lack any coherent policy towards age. What we have instead is a collection of attitudes — at once compassionate, confused and condescending. Sexism, like racism, may rightly be regarded as a serious matter; ageism, despite the best efforts of Age Concern (and there's a giveaway title for you), remains a bit of a joke.

When Sir Michael Checkland, the outgoing director-general of the BBC, declared in October 1992 that he thought it "bizarre" that the corporation should be led towards the 21st century by a chairman who by the time of his retirement would be 73 — coupling his remark with a gratuitous reference to "fuzzy monsters" — no bucketful of moral outrage descended upon his head. At worst, he was thought to have been a touch cheeky.



Graham Sutherland's controversial portrait of Churchill as Prime Minister at 80, unveiled in 1954

Indeed, on the ageism front, it could be argued that here in Britain — unlike in the United States, where, thanks to Claude Pepper (who remained in Congress until he was 88), there is now a law banning mandatory retirement on the ground of age — we have over the past few decades grown progressively less tolerant. It is, after all, only 40 years since we had a Prime Minister who was himself over 80. And although Winston Churchill in his Indian summer was scarcely any sort of political role-model, at least he did not have to put up with half as many jokes as 78-year-old President Reagan had to endure, especially from this side of the Atlantic, 30 years later.

Nor was the acceptance of Churchill — the first octogenarian in No 10 since William Ewart Gladstone — merely an example of an indulgent attitude towards one exceptional man. During the early 1980s, there may have been some impatient muttering from ambitious lawyers in the Temple, but there was no great popular outcry against Lord Denning, still dispensing justice at the age of 83. No judge will ever do that again: the present retirement age for the higher judiciary is still 75, but under the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Bill (now awaiting royal assent), it will this summer be reduced to 70, forcing even future Law Lords to retire at the same age as JPs.

It is much the same story with bishops. With the exception of a solitary "freeholder" surviving from a less interfering era — Dr Eric Kemp of Chichester, who carries defiantly on at the age of 78 — there is no room on today's episcopal bench for anyone over the age of 70. Even the Bishop of Durham — who once famously talked about "an elderly imported American" — is gracefully bowing out in July at the age of 69.

The House of Commons, as always, remains a law unto itself, although even here some modest slippage in the respect for grey hairs has taken place across the past few decades. The median age for MPs, which was 51 in 1959, is now 48. True, Sir Edward Heath, at 77 the oldest MP, may look as if he is going on for ever, but even he still has some considerable way to go before catching up with the ex-pawnbroker Labour MP, Alderman David Logan, from the old Scotland division of Liverpool, who was still bustling about the House at the age of 92 in the 1959-64 parliament.

In the contemporary climate, even such a Johnnie Walker of politics would long since have found himself gently elevated to the eventide home of the House of Lords. (Incidentally, the Lords appears to be just about the one refuge where age-barriers never apply. Clement Attlee put a Shropshire deputy lieutenant there at the age of 94 in 1948; Neil Kinnock nominated Douglas Jay for a peerage at the age of 80 in 1987; and Margaret Thatcher created Harold Macmillan Earl of Stockton at the age of 90 in 1984.)

Outside Parliament there is no getting round the fact that it is normally the State itself which leads the way in discrimination against the elderly. That much is evident from a piece of naked prejudice which used to surface in the rules governing commercial television. Under the regulations of first the Independent Television and then the Independent Broadcasting Acts — both originally introduced by Tory governments — no one could be a director of an ITV company beyond the age of 70 (a provision that in the 1970s drove both the late Sidney Bernstein and Lew Grade from the boards of their respective companies). Only with the recent relaxation of the rules — "the light rein" as David Mellor beguilingly characterised it — has that formal interdict been lifted. It is a fair bet, though, that something of the sort will return the next time "the nanny state" feels the pendulum swinging back in its favour.

What the large and swelling army of the over-sixties and rising-seventies needs to be clear about is that it is not conventional opinion but essentially benevolent authority that poses the main threat to the prospect of their leading full and active lives. It is the Gentleman in Whitehall — to use a phrase from the youthful Douglas Jay — whom we need to fear. Even a concessionary public library ticket is not, after all, much of a consolation for the sense of being put out to grass.

Winged messenger of woe

MATTHEW BOND DIARY

Was it a bird? Was it a plane? Was it the peripatetic Douglas Hurd taking a bit of a short-cut on his continuing mission to boldly go absolutely everywhere a Foreign Secretary has been before? Alas no, it was James Miller, causing a considerable fuss by hang-gliding onto the roof of Buckingham Palace and promptly removing his clothes.

Ah yes, James Miller. Now you remember — I know, doesn't that seem a long time ago? Can it really be only a week since the American drove a microlight and naked pilot throught the pages of royal protocol? Is it really only seven days since the very height of exoticism seemed to be Miller's green-painted nether regions? Alas, it can... Alas, it is... And how positively tame it all seems now.

Future generations, though, will doubtless see Miller for what he was. Not some off-course streaker who mistook Buck House for the new East Stand at Twickenham, but a genuine harbinger of ill-fortune. In years to come, London parents will look wisely to the skies and say to their youngsters: "You mark my words, junior. Nude hang-glider in the morning, Establishment warning." Or perhaps: "Bird man over the Palace, prepare the Poisoned Chalice."

But whatever the eventual aphorism, there is no doubt what Miller's aerial arrival actually heralded. Martin Scorcese might have secured an Oscar nomination for his, but for Britain the Age of Innocence is over. No sooner had Miller been carted off by the palace guard (a bearskin presumably playing the part traditionally taken by the policeman's helmet) than the very fabric of society started falling apart.

Senior horticultural experts transplanted themselves from the BBC's *Gardeners' Question Time* to Classic FM, after being told that their approach to potting and pollination was too old-fashioned. Senior publishing executives failed to live happily ever after at Mills & Boon, after being told pretty much the same. And poor Stephen Milligan departed this life in a manner you would not wish on your worst enemy.

It was, in short, the sort of week which, having begun with a green-thighed sky-pilot, naked but for his hang-glider, would surely not end without at least a fleeting glimpse of Angus Diggle, the gentleman best known for being naked but for a green condom and detachable frilly cuffs. It did not — Diggle won leave to appeal against his conviction for attempted rape.

Even the heir to the throne, at one point, seemed to have succumbed to the mood of moral decay. But here, at least, things thankfully were not what they seemed. The intimate oscular contact that the Prince of Wales appeared to be enjoying with a prone and unprotesting female known as Resusci Anne actually turned out to be a demonstration of the royal resuscitation technique. And very fine it was too — although Prinsusci Anne, as the Prince's partner will now be known, was unmoved by the experience — as befits a medical dummy.

Prince Charles, however, could be forgiven for seeking some sort of solace after recent events in the Antipodes. Having survived the starter pistol episode in Australia, New Zealand has brought fresh dangers: in the forms of aerosol-waving anti-monarchists and bare-bottomed pro-republicans. Royal security chiefs say that as a result, they are now prepared for any threat — especially from naked, aerosol-waving protesters who arrive by hang-glider.

Despite such dangers, Bryan Gould MP has decided that New Zealand, rather than the Parliamentary Labour Party, is the place for him. This autumn, Labour's former deputy leader sets sail to become vice-chancellor of Waikato University, sister institution, perhaps, to Idontgoto University, whose many graduates wear the name so proudly. Those puzzled by Gould's decision to quit politics might care to bear one thing in mind — the follicularly-challenged MP used to stand on his head to encourage new hair growth. The Antipodes is his last hope.

Also on their eventful travels have been Labour MP Tony Worthington, and Conservative MP Mark Robinson. Their problems stemmed not from starting pistols, aerosols or bottoms, but from rifle-toting Somali clansman, who in less time than it takes Virginia Bottomley to shut a Hospital, kidnapped the two men. Happily, the pair were released after 24 hours, but their troubles did not end there. The Labour whips are already waiting to interview Worthington, to find out why he missed a crucial Commons vote and to assess whether the politically balanced trip counts as a breach of Labour's disruptive no-pairing policy. Holed up in Djibouti, the two men are busy getting their story straight before returning. In the current climate, something about sharing the same civil war to save money ought to do it.

As the new adage puts it:

Nude flights before dawn,
For morals you'll mourn.

TIMES PAST — THE TIMES — FUTURES

BY JINGO, IF WE MUST

The Government has fluffed its lines on Bosnia

What is British policy on Bosnia? Early last week, the answer seemed clear enough. On Monday, John Major responded to the latest carnage in Sarajevo with a demand for "tough and muscular action" to end the slaughter of civilians. It was, he said, essential for the UN and Nato to end the bombardment. In Brussels, Douglas Hurd was staunch in his public support of the European Union's call for the use of all means, including air power, to end the siege of Sarajevo.

Until very recently, Mr Hurd had ridiculed as "nonsense" the thought that air power could serve any purpose. Now, he said, the balance of risk and benefit had changed, and he shared in "the overwhelming feeling that this has to be attempted".

The formal British decision to support Nato's ultimatum was, the press was told, taken at Downing Street on Tuesday. Yesterday, Mr Hurd told American television that this time, the Bosnian Serbs knew that there was "the full agreed weight of Nato behind this decision," adding: "we've got our act together." Yet what ministers said on Thursday, both in formal statements to the House of Commons and in meetings with Tory backbenchers, suggests no such thing. Their message was that, far from advocating air strikes, Britain's hand had been forced — not by the imperatives of halting the carnage in Sarajevo, but by France and America. Once it was clear that America regarded the ultimatum as "a crucial test for the Alliance", Britain had no choice but to go along.

It had become clear at last month's Nato summit, Mr Hurd told the Commons, that both these governments felt passionately about Bosnia. Although Britain would not have supported an "untenable" Nato policy, a refusal to support Wednesday's ultimatum "would have administered, to ourselves, to our own defence policy, a severe shock". When Mr Hurd and Malcolm Rifkind met Tory MPs later, they were still more explicit: once the French, with more troops in Bosnia and in more exposed positions than Britain's, demanded an ultimatum, the ground had been cut from under Britain's feet.

When President Clinton telephoned Mr Major on Wednesday (a day after the supposedly decisive Downing Street meeting) he had issued a blunt warning that failure to act could accelerate the disengagement of American forces from Europe. Mr Hurd sought to comfort MPs with the promise that Nato's strategy would be reviewed in three weeks, and that British forces had been ordered to halt convoy escorts, had plenty to eat and could be withdrawn if the going got tough. Even if it is true that Britain's hand was forced — which would mean that neither Mr Major nor Mr Hurd meant what they said as recently as Monday — the Government should have thought twice about saying so publicly. If, as Malcolm Rifkind rightly said yesterday, it is "foolish to make threats you are not prepared to carry out", it must be almost as foolish to suggest that you made them only under duress.

Ministers are evidently frightened of the unease among Tory backbenchers, some of them influential, at the prospect of military action. But far from covering their flanks, such statements are counter-productive, at home and abroad. They could, by weakening the deterrent effect on the Bosnian Serbs of Nato's ultimatum, make airstrikes more likely. Having joined that ultimatum, the Government needs to get public opinion firmly behind it. The way to do that is hardly to be seen to doubt the wisdom of the course taken. A government in headlong retreat under fire — muted fire at that — from its own backbenches is a a sorry spectacle. Under Mr Major, it has become an all too familiar one.

THINKING THE UNTHINKABLE

Hospitals must respond to the lessons of the Allitt case

The independent report by Sir Cecil Clothier QC into the Beverly Allitt case published yesterday is no substitute for the public enquiry which the parents of the young nurse's victims continue to demand. Defending the secrecy of the hearings, Sir Cecil argued that privacy fosters candour; yet public scrutiny usually makes for better justice.

Nonetheless, the families of the 13 children murdered or attacked by Allitt at Grantham and Kesteven general hospital should at least be consoled by the generally high quality of this report. Having listened to 94 witnesses, Sir Cecil has struck a sensible balance between the specific and the general. While acknowledging the exceptional circumstances of the case, he has also made 13 broad recommendations.

Public policy cannot prevent personality disorders of the kind which gripped Allitt when she worked at the hospital. But it is reasonable to expect such institutions to protect those in their care by rigorously screening and monitoring their employees. Had health workers and managers pooled their collective knowledge of Allitt, the report concluded, an "unmistakeable portrait of malevolence" would have emerged; too many signs of her disturbance were "neglected or missed altogether". Lines of communication between the pathology laboratory, health managers and the head of the hospital were evidently far too informal.

The report's concluding passage, in which "the urge to lay blame" is criticised, is its least satisfactory. Those who were guilty of professional neglect in this case should indeed pay a just price. Two doctors and a number of nurses have already lost their jobs and the managers involved have suffered a devastating loss in credibility. Yet Sir Cecil was right to focus upon structural flaws in the hospital system rather than the incompetence of individuals. The only positive outcome of this tragedy will be a clearer understanding of how organisations should protect themselves against pathological behaviour.

Recruitment and monitoring procedures in the caring professions remain unacceptably slack. Allitt was hired in 1991 although she had twice been rejected and had given a "very unsatisfactory" interviews; doctors at the hospital had observed symptoms of her disorder as early as 1986. Likewise, Frank Beck, the Leicestershire care worker who abused 200 children, evaded detection for 13 years. The presumption of innocence is appropriate in a court of law. But caring institutions cannot afford to make assumptions of any kind.

Some of Sir Cecil's recommendations, which were immediately endorsed by ministers, will involve more resources and bureaucracy than others. Tracing the sickness records of applicants to the nursing profession from their former employers will be time-consuming, as will the recommended review of paediatric pathology services. The suggestion that general practitioners should disclose the medical records of candidates for nursing jobs raises a different sort of ethical question.

But it is remarkable that Sir Cecil should have to spell out the need to screen nurses' health when they obtain their first posts, to enforce health department guidelines on children's welfare in hospital, and to report failures of monitoring equipment. Such measures would seem to be mere common sense — in the words of one of the parents yesterday "obvious things that should be happening in hospitals everywhere." The Allitt case has shown that no institution can secure itself completely against the cunning of a determined maniac; but it has also shown that much more could be done to close the remaining loopholes.

FOUL FEBRUARY

A suitable month for snuggles-wuggles and piggy-wiggy

It is widely believed that the popularity of St Valentine's day is owed to the romantic possibilities it affords to the the lovesick, the adolescent and the jaded. That, while true, is not wholly so; folk, it seems, welcome it most because it falls in February, the least glamorous month of the year by far.

In spite of its intercalary quirk every fourth year, February can irritate. St Valentine's is its only day of grace: without its cheerful intervention, the month would amount to no more than a wasteland between the last burp of Christmas and the first daffodils. February, even in the sunny world of Wodehouse, has never sprung; and St Valentine's day would not have worked in June without an act of Parliament.

It is not known to which of the two Valentines — the one buried on the Flaminian Way at Rome, who was clubbed to death in the reign of Claudius the Goth, or the chap from Terni, disembowelled a few years later — our amorous rites are due. And it probably does not matter, for it has been said that birds start to court, and mate, on this day. "St. Valentine is past: Begin these wood-birds but to couple now?" By logic clear only to those who preceded us, we are expected to do so, too.

The day is one for good-natured confession, and was, for centuries, one of the few times on which a girl might make so bold as to approach a boy of her choice or desires. It came, therefore, to represent a refreshing break from the stilted, and arch, norms of courtship and dalliance that shackled the Victorians and their successors. These women's liberties are of little importance now, when anything goes on any day; but, curiously, it is in our time that St Valentine has received the most relentless attention.

Florists and card-sellers rejoice in the way that they do at Christmas. Money is spent in many ways, with pages of newspapers converted into a Rosetta stone of messages, some fizzy and cryptic, others eloquent, exhibitionist or twee. "Bumblebee adores tall tweety"; "Captain Cookie loves Salote Taufa'ahau"; "Four across hopes to see twenty-one down at the Heteronym's Arms at six". But the thread of good nature, if not always finesse, runs through them all.

By awkward paradox, Thomas Robert Malthus was born on St Valentine's day. A lugubrious prophet alarmed by the earth's fast-growing population, he saw in famine, disease and disaster ways of keeping numbers down. His shadow, fortunately, has not been allowed to darken the once-a-year day for flirting and frivolity, and even fecundity. The saints know we need them occasionally. If St Valentine's day did not already exist, February supplies the best excuse for inventing it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A national identity: small signals and larger loyalties

From Mr Alexander Walker

Sir, Small signals as well as large loyalties translate into a sense of shared national identity (letters, February 1, 3, 5).

The London Film Festival opened last November to a British film and a speech from a government minister, but the national anthem — which marks the opening night of every major film festival I have been to on the Continent — remained unplayed.

The Turner Prize sponsored by the Patrons of New Art at the Tate last year was open to "a British artist" — I quote from the rules of admissibility — yet the shortlist contained an Irish-American artist and a Vietnamese.

The British Film Institute's book prize, intended to stimulate film and TV research in the United Kingdom, last year went to an American citizen who did all his research in the United States.

It appears that the bodies which accept subsidies running into tens of millions yearly from the state are among the least scrupulous in protecting our national identity, much less celebrating it.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ALEXANDER WALKER.
1 Marlborough,
38-40 Maida Vale, W9.
February 5.

From Sir David Lumsden

Sir, The Reverend Dr Arthur Peacocke (letter, February 3) is right: reports of the death of the Church of England are exaggerated. For many (most?) of us lay members of the Church of England remaining in our church is as positive an act as leaving it is for others. But, of course, "MP stays with the Church of England" is a non-starter as a headline compared with "MP embraces Rome".

So, let's for once celebrate an English institution which has survived for 400 years and more, is both Catholic and Protestant, tolerates intelligent questioning, abhors rigidity, authoritarianism and dogma, inspires and guides firmly but gently through its sacraments, doctrine and liturgies, offers comfort, encourages compassion, stands against evil and for the weak and at the same time manages to maintain hundreds of wonderful buildings and a priceless store of artistic treasures.

For a musician our Anglican musical heritage is beyond price, unique in the whole world. And not only from a historic standpoint — present-day standards of repertory, performance and spirituality in our cathedrals and collegiate chapels are higher now than ever before in our lifetime. Church musicians work comfortably and frequently alongside secular musicians, ensuring that we all work to the highest professional standards.

But we can do better still. We need a more dynamic, compelling style of leadership, we need to proclaim not apologise, we need to be even more open to all the great intellectual, cultural and artistic developments throughout the world. This is not a matter for apology or shame, but for prayerful confidence and celebration, in company with rather than in opposition to our fellow Christians in other churches.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID LUMSDEN
(Principal, Royal Academy of Music, 1982-93),
Melton House,
Soham, Cambridgeshire.

From Mr Gavin Peck

Sir, Whilst confidence in our major institutions has been seriously eroded over recent years — Church, police, politicians, Civil Service — the one exception is the Armed Forces, who are regarded with respect and affection by most of the population. Yet there appears to be a marked lack of curiosity as to how they have achieved this unique position, to say nothing of their international reputation.

Are they now so small that their culture and management techniques are considered irrelevant? Yet they recruit from the same pool as other employers, their pay is not high and job security is not assured, but they have accepted with good grace as many changes and reductions as any other organisation.

Is their hierarchical structure a problem? Yet it takes more than rank to persuade men to face danger and death.

Are they regarded as a memento from our imperial past and a good tourist attraction? But are/were they toy soldiers who serve(d) with distinction in the Falklands, the Gulf, Northern Ireland and Bosnia? Are they considered so good that civilian managers would prefer not to know? Or are they not as good as we think, but haven't been found out yet?

Yours faithfully,
G. PECK.
Brown's Farm, Pound Green,
Ramsdell, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

From Mr Stephen Meades

Sir, Lady Maude (letter, February 1) rightly castigates our national trend towards becoming "isolated 'consumer units' without affections, loyalties", etc.

The impetus towards this dispiriting condition however has come, not from any prospective or past alterations to our county boundaries, sad as these may be, but from the fundamental denigration of the concept of society set in train by Mrs Thatcher and her ilk — one of these being, of course, Mr Portillo, whose unpleasant speech about "the self-destructive sickness of national cynicism" (report, January 15) Lady Maude appears to endorse.

It is the Government's "sell off and sack" credo which has led to the ownership of British manufacturing industry being transferred to far-off lands, to communities being unbound and allowed to fall into disrepair, and to the sparking of the "There is no society" catherine wheel.

Mr Portillo can hardly feign surprise at the atomised society which he has helped to create.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN MEADES.
7 Port Arthur,
Scalloway, Shetland.
February 3.

From Dr Brian Porter

Sir, Your correspondents are to be applauded. The crisis in British society is primarily one of identity, and a sense of this begins at the local level.

The fact that county or shire affiliation is a matter of deeply felt identity, to which administrative convenience should take second place, is one that the bureaucratic mind is unable to understand. It must be made to do so.

A first step in the re-establishment of social-psychological health would be to restore, and this time irrevocably, the pre-1974 counties with their 1,000-year-old boundaries.

When I asked a New Jersey cousin how old was the county (Morris) in which she lived, she replied, "as old as the United States", and expressed amazement that in England such things could be changed by official whim.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN PORTER.
University of Kent,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
Rutherford College,
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NX.
February 8.

All around on the Underground

From Mr Richard Stocks

Sir, This month it is 35 years since I started as an articled clerk in the City. As such I used to do a lot of travelling on the London Underground. Indeed, I welcomed in on the Central line, which I used a lot, the generation of smart silver trains which are now in the process of being scrapped.

At the time, as I remember, there was correspondence in *The Times* (letters, September 19, 26, October 10, 21, 1959) about whether it was possible to visit every station on the Underground system and travel on every bit of track in the course of a single day. Discussion took place in your pages about possible routes and various "records" were claimed, ranging from 263 stations in 19¼ hours to 278 in 24 hours, 9 minutes.

Since then, the Victoria line has been added, and the Jubilee. The latter has added no stations, only interchanges, making life easier, but the Bakerloo no longer operates to Watford. Also there is no Northern line from Finsbury Park to Moorgate. However, the Piccadilly has been extended to Heathrow.

Is it still possible to achieve the objective within a single day, and what would be the optimum route? Presumably, now that everyone has computers, this could be worked out a lot more easily. But what about the Docklands Light Railway — should that be included?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD STOCKS.
Cherry's, St George's Avenue,
Weybridge, Surrey.
February 9.

Compensation delay

From Mrs Susan Fairbairn

Sir, It is not uncommon for persons bringing a claim to an industrial tribunal to be represented by a lay person and I am from time to time invited to be such a representative.

There appears to me to be a glaring example of a need for a change in employment law. It may not be widely known that an award of compensation does not ensure payment. If an employer does not make payment as required by the tribunal, a further claim must be made by the applicant in the county court.

The delay between initiating a claim to a tribunal and obtaining judgment in the county court can be as much as 18 months.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN FAIRBAIRN.
11 Oak Way, West Common,
Harpenden, Hertfordshire.
February 10.

Jobs for the boys?

From Dr George W. Scott

Sir, On February 10, the day Mrs Bottomley announced the virtual closure of Guy's as a hospital, there appeared in the jobs section of *The Times* an advertisement placed by the Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust for a Director of Strategic Development with a salary of £60,000 plus benefits.

As most of the present senior administration, in the form of the chief executive and his deputy, the finance director and the marketing director, originate from St Thomas' Hospital, should the advertisement have stipulated that applicants from the same source would be preferred?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE SCOTT.
Keats House,
Guy's Hospital,
Thomas Street, SE1.
February 11.

Lobbying for Marsden

From Baroness Jeger

Sir, As a patient at the Royal Marsden Hospital I rejoice that this hospital is not to be closed (reports, February 11). You say that this situation has been arrived at by intensive propaganda masterminded by commercial lobbyists.

In my husband's practice in Shoreditch we did not have any famous names on our patient lists. Many of our patients could not even sign their names on a petition.

Does this mean that decisions about closure are only related to the efficiency of public relations firms to get influence with Government decisions?

Yours faithfully,
LENA JEGER,
House of Lords.
February 11.

Speaking out

From Mr Geyve Walker

Sir, Speaking up for officials, Sir Robin Butler told the Scott enquiry [report, February 10, letters, February 11] that some of the press comment "has been distressing for individuals concerned, and for their families, colleagues and close friends".

I should like to think that officials were more distressed at the prospect of the Matrix-Churchill defendants going to prison whilst they all kept mum.

Yours faithfully,
GEYVE WALKER.
The Old Vicarage, Barton,
Tirril, Penrith, Cumbria.
February 10.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Tory meetings

From Mr Peter Temple-Morris, MP for Leominster (Conservative)

Sir, I was amazed to read today's report by Nicholas Wood, in which he refers to me as having been "carpeted" by John Major for "defying his plea for an end to sniping at his leadership". He states that "according to one source" I was given a "terrific tongue-lashing" by the Chief Whip, that I was kept standing through an encounter of a mere 90 seconds — "even less than the two minutes Mr Major spared George Gardiner" (report, February 2) — and so on.

The interview with me shown by the BBC on Sunday, February 6, for which it seems that I have been "stiffly rebuked", was recorded during the afternoon of Thursday, February 3 — i.e., before the Prime Minister's speech to the 1922 Committee that evening. There was therefore no question of my "defying his plea", and the programme provided an accurate account of some of the obvious doubts and fears that exist on the back benches.

My talk this week with the Chief Whip was calm and relatively good-natured. We were both standing in a corridor and it went on for five minutes at least. The general gist was that if I thought I was helping the Prime Minister by taking on the right publicly I was not doing so, that we were doing the party harm and should therefore please stay off the media. If that was a "terrific tongue-lashing" I have no more fears left in life.

The interest of the party and Government must come first with all of us in the party. As I said to the Chief Whip, both those who lead and those who follow must show quality and restraint. I will do my best in this regard.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TEMPLE-MORRIS,
House of Commons.
February 11.

From Mr Derek V. Gee

Sir, John Major's recent strictures to the 1922 Committee for criticism "face-to-face [rather] than behind the hand" (report, February 4) hardly square with the two-minute blunt dismissal when he despatched the 92 Group's agreed face-to-face, only 48 hours earlier (report, February 2).

"Do as I say, not as I do" would appear to be merely the latest definition of government double-speak.

Yours Liberal Democratically,
D. V. GEE,
32 Richmond Road,
Rugby, Warwickshire.
February 7.

The new Glyndebourne

From Mr J. H. Anderson

Sir, Mr Smyth (letter, February 3) criticises the new Glyndebourne theatre on the grounds of its skyline and its effect on the house and setting.

As manager of the Glyndebourne estate for many years and seeing the house and opera house frequently in and out of season, I had become used to the old building and learnt to love its ramshackle form and lack of comeliness, but will never forget the shock when I first saw it, after all the enthusiasm for Glyndebourne Opera and its setting which I had heard.

One can hardly expect to see a brand-new opera house in the back garden of an historic house in the country without some sense of the unexpected but, unlike its predecessor, it is now with enjoyment over a building which, to my layman's eye, has much good form, certainly greater charm and a wonderful auditorium.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ANDERSON,
Strutt & Parker
(Chartered surveyors),
201 High Street, Lewes, Sussex.
February 4.

From Mr A. J. T. Williams

Sir, I was astonished to learn from the forthcoming season's booking information leaflet that several seats at the new Glyndebourne have a "restricted" or "slightly restricted view" and that from certain seats in the foyer and circle boxes the supertitles will not be visible.

Were the architect's skills really not up to the design of a new auditorium without such a defect? However few the affected seats, I for one would rather forgo the "heady scent of the reclaimed pitch pine" (Rodney Milnes's article, Arts, February 1) for an auditorium where even the cheapest seats have an unrestricted view.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY WILLIAMS.
187 Clarence Gate Gardens,
Glentworth Street, NW1.
February 8.

From Miss Maureen Keetch

Sir, I sang at Glyndebourne in the 1960s and made a sentimental journey to a performance during the last season in the old theatre.

I felt sure that an era was gone for ever. However, the photographs published by your critics (Arts, February 1) showed as mellow and gracious a development as possible in the surroundings, given that an enlargement was necessary in the first place, and I look forward to the success of the new venture.

We must all allow change to happen in our lifetime with as good a grace as possible. No more carping please!

Yours sincerely,
MAUREEN KEETCH.
23 Crewys Road, NW2.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

More word-play

From Dr J. K. Aronson

Sir, Philip Howard writes (February 4) that "the first hexagram [a set of at least six six-letter words, anagrams of each other] has been registered", namely aisled, deasil, eliads, [ideals], ladies and sailed. But hexagrams are not as rare as he supposes; indeed, there are too many other examples to list here.

The most spectacular are the 14-word group alerts, alters, artels, estral, laster, rastle, ratels, relast, resalt, salter, slater, staler, stelar, and tarsel, and the 13-word group asteer, aretes, Easter, Eastre, eaters, reates, reseat, saeter, seater, staree, steare, teaser and Teresa.

There are also several heptagrams (including the 12-word group anestri, eranist, nastier, ratines, resiant, restain, retains, retinas, retsina, stainer, starnie, and stearin) and a handful of octagrams (including the nine-word group angriest, astringe, ganister, gantries, granites, ingrates, rangiest, reasting, and tangiers, to which one could perhaps add the phrase inert gas).

The words here that are not justified by *The Chambers Dictionary* 1993 will be found in the *OED* (second edition) or *Webster's New International* (second or third editions).

Yours etc,
J. K. ARONSON,
8 Lathbury Road, Oxford.
February 6.

From Professor D. G. Barnsley

Sir, Why, I wonder, did Henry Button offer the nonce-word "meist" as his choice of anagram of *Times* beginning with the letter "m" (vide Philip Howard)? What is wrong with the humble word "mites"?

Yours faithfully,
D. G. BARNSLEY,
22 Copse Close, Oadby, Leicester.
February 5.

Tribute to Calman

From Mr Ralph Steadman

Sir, I am so sad to hear about the death of Mel Calman (report, later editions, February 11).

The world has lost a giant little man, a champion of the considered understatement and an artist who has written the human condition in a nutshell.

I am grateful for his modest wisdom.

Yours sincerely,
RALPH STEADMAN.
Chelsea Arts Club,
143 Old Church Street, SW3.
February 11.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 11: His Excellency Mr Richard Smith and Mrs Smith were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Australia in London.

His Excellency Dr Georg Hennig was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Austria to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Brigadier Hans-Rüdiger Sulzgruber (Defence Attache), Dr Herbert Krauss (Minister Counsellor), Dr Peter Marginter (Cultural Counsellor), Dr Gerhard Kernthaler (Commercial Counsellor), Dr Georg Heindl (Second Secretary), Herr Frank Zeller (Second Secretary), Frau Ulla Krauss-Nussbaumer (Cultural Attache) and Herr Gerhard Widor (Counsellor, Consular).

Mrs Hennig was also received by The Queen. Sir David Gillmore (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr Ian Sloane was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador to Mongolia. Mrs Sloane was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr Justice Higgins was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court in Northern Ireland when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm Ross was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Lieutenant-Colonel Seymour Gilbart-Denham was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Mr Peter Hartley was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Duke of Edinburgh today visited Nothern Ireland. Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Mr John Lowther (Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire) at the Memorial Service for Lieutenant-Colonel John Chandos-Pole (formerly Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire) which was held in All Saints' Church, Northampton, today.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Mrs Michael Harvey.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by Major Nicholas Barne.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 11: The Prince Edward, Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening gave a Dinner at Buckingham Palace at the conclusion of the 1993 Summer Challenge.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 11: The Prince of Wales arrived at Gatwick Airpot, London, this afternoon from New Zealand. Commander Richard Aylard, RN, Commander Robert Fraser, RN, and Miss Sandra Henney were in attendance.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: General Sir John Akehurst, 64; General Sir John Archer, 70; Mr Steve Backley, athlete, 25; Professor A.H. Beckett, former professor of pharmacy, 74; Sir John Paget Bowman, industrial strategist, 90; Mr Roland Boyes, MP, 57; Lord Brocket, 42; Mr Alexander Carlile, MP, 46; Viscount Chandos, 41; Miss Annette Crosbie, actress, 60; Mr Howard Davies, director general, CBI, 43; Sir James Dunnett, civil servant, 80; Dr K.J.R. Edwards, vice-chancellor, Leicester University, 60; Mr Stephen Gibbs, former chairman, Turner and Newall, 74; Lord Granville of Eye, 95; Lord Greene of Harrow Weald, 84; Mr Paul Hamlyn, publisher, 68; Sir Robin Mackworth-Young, Librarian Emeritus to The Queen, 74; Lord Morison, 63; Lord Moyola, 71; Dame Alison Munro, former high mistress, St Paul's Girls School, 80; Mr John Raisman, former chairman, Shell UK, 65; Mr Justice Rougier, 62; Mr Fergus Slattery, rugby player, 43; Mr Peter Snape, MP, 52; the Hon Nicholas Soames, MP, 46; Mr Peter Temple-Morris, MP, 56; Sir Aubrey Trotman-Dickenson, former principal, University of Wales College of Cardiff, 68; Lord Wigoder, QC, 73; Mr Albert Williams, trades unionist, 67.

TOMORROW: Mr Michael Attenborough, executive producer, Royal Shakespeare Company, 44; Dr D.V. Atterton, chairman, Guinness Mahon Holdings, 67; Mr David Banks, editor, *Daily Mirror*, 46; Miss Caroline Blakiston, actress, 61; Mr Liam Brady, footballer, 38; Professor Derek Burke, vice-chancellor, University of East Anglia, 64; Earl Cadogan, 80; Dr J.P. Clayton, former Apothecary to HM Household at Windsor, 73; Miss M.E. Collins, former matron-in-chief, QARNNS, 67; Mr Gareth Davies, chairman, Glynwed International, 64; Baroness Flather, 60; Dr D.G. Hessayon, horticultural and agricultural author, 66; Professor Lord Lewis of Newnham, 66; Mr John McAllion, MP, 46; Mr Gordon McMaster, MP, 34; Lord Manners, 71; Mr Colin Matthews, composer, 48; the Earl of Moray, 66; Miss Kim Novak, actress, 61; Mr Leonard Pascoe, cricketer, 44; Lord Peyton of Yeovil, 75; Lord Pym, 72; Mr Oliver Reed, actor, 56; Miss Margaretta Scott, actress, 82; Mr George Segal, actor, 60; M Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, author and politician, 70; Dr Donald Sykes, former principal, Mansfield College, Oxford, 63.



Franco Zeffirelli, film and theatre producer and designer, is 71 today; Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, is 51

Memorial service

Lieutenant-Colonel John Chandos-Pole
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire at a memorial service for Lieutenant-Colonel John Chandos-Pole held yesterday at the Church of All Saints, Northampton. Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Mrs Michael Harvey and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester by Major Nicholas Barne.

The Rev Simon Godfrey officiated, assisted by the Rev Stephen Adams and the Rev Victor Malan. Mr Benedict Fenwick, stepson-in-law, and Mr Harry Pilcher read the lessons. The Archdeacon of Northampton said the Regimental Collect of the Coldstream Guards and Viscount Kemsley gave an address. The Bishop of Peterborough pronounced the blessing.

The County Standard of the Royal British Legion and the Union Flag were borne in procession from the west door of the church and placed at the Altar by members of the Royal British Legion. Those present included:

Mr and Mrs David Stern (stepson-in-law and stepdaughter), Mrs Benedict Fenwick (stepdaughter), Mr Alexius Fenwick and Mr and Mrs James Alexander Sinclair (step-grandchildren), Nadine Countess of Shrewsbury (sister-in-law), the Earl of Shrewsbury, Mr and Mrs Antony Pilcher, Mr Harry Pilcher, Mr Sam Pilcher, Mrs W Chandos Pole, Mrs James Chichester.

The Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, the Vice-Lord Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenants of Northamptonshire, the Mayor and representatives from Northampton Borough Council, the Mayors and Chairman of Borough and District Councils in Northamptonshire, the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, the Chairman of Northamptonshire County Council, members of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, Major Mark Hibbert-Hingston (representing the Coldstream Guards and the Colonel of the Regiment) and Mr Brian Smith (United Grand Lodge of England).

Dinners

Gardeners' Company
The Lord Mayor and Mrs Newall, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended a livery and ladies dinner of the Gardeners' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr E.M. Upward, master, presided. The Lord Mayor, Mr N.A. Chalmers, upper warden, and Mrs Mary Newnes also spoke.

HM Government
Sir Hector Monro, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries at the Scottish Office, was host at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government last night at Bute House, Edinburgh, for agricultural editors and correspondents.

Midland and Oxford Circuit Bar Mess
The Midland and Oxford Circuit Bar Mess held a dinner last night at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham, to mark the appointment to the High Court Bench of Mr Justice Stuart-White, Mr Justice Buxton, Mr Justice Jacob, Mr Justice Morison and Mr Justice Longmore. Mr Richard Wakerley, QC, Leader of the Circuit, presided.

Service dinners

RN College Greenwich
The Speaker was the guest of honour at a ladies guest night dinner held last night at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Layard, Second Sea Lord, Chief of Naval Personnel and Admiral President, and Lady Layard were also dined out. Commander E.F.M. Searle, Commander of the College, presided.

41 Young Officers Course
Colonel Norman Davies presided at a 41 Young Officers Course dinner held last night at the Royal Artillery Mess, Woolwich, to mark the 40th anniversary of their commissioning into the Royal Artillery. General Sir John Learmont, Quartermaster General, also spoke.

Viennese Ball

The Austrian Ambassador attended a reception held at the Savoy Hotel on February 10 to launch The Cystic Fibrosis Trust's Pearl Anniversary Viennese Ball to be held on Wednesday, November 2 at Grosvenor House. Further information from The Trust, 11 Waterloo Place, London, SW1Y 4AU.

Edgehill College, Bideford, Devon

The Governors are pleased to announce the following Scholarships and Exhibitions for September 1994:

8+ Scholarships: Corinne Boyle, Leon Loveridge.
8+ Exhibitions: Sarah Gilbert, Thomas Massie, Hollie Sayers, Mark Stevens.
11+ Scholarships: Miranda Bangay, John Eatough, Karen Mott.
11+ Exhibitions: Santana Clements, Melissa Cockrill.
11+ Music Scholarship: Paul Moulton.
11+ Music Exhibitions: Leone Kemp, Claire Mobsby.
13+ Scholarships: Willow Bangay, Elizabeth Hill, Helen Tyler.
13+ Exhibitions: Rebecca Barker, Andrew Patt.
13+ Music Exhibition: Joy Clarke.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.B.G. Ballantine and Miss J.E. Henderson
The engagement is announced between Toby, son of Mrs Jennifer Ballantine and the late Dr Brian Ballantine, of Wendover, Buckinghamshire, and Joanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Henderson, of Newport, Shropshire.

Mr A. Braimer Jones and Miss C.S. Phillips
The engagement is announced between Adrian, son of the late Mr and Mrs Charles Braimer Jones, of Haywards Heath, Sussex, and Caroline, daughter of Mr Ronald Phillips, of Kensington, London, and of Mrs Elisabeth Phillips, of Magagnosc, France.

Mr C. Burkett and Dr J. Aked
The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs Philip Burkett, of Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire, and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Aked, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

Mr J.R.A. Butler and Miss J.A. Taylor
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs M.P. Butler, of Ramsden, Oxfordshire, and Jennifer, youngest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs R.H. Taylor, of Sydney, Australia.

Mr J.J. Charles-Jones and Miss A.M.L. Hargreaves
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr Hugh Charles-Jones and Mrs Pamela Charles-Jones, and Alexandra, daughter of the late Mr Jonathan Hargreaves and stepdaughter of Mrs Jonathan Hargreaves.

Mr M.A. Free and Dr S.P. Schofield
The marriage will take place on Saturday, February 19, between Michael, son of Mr A. Free, of Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, and Mrs S. Free, of Toronto, and Sarah, daughter of Dr and Mrs D.A. Schofield, of Southampton.

Mr D.M. Hall and Miss M.S. Bridger
The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Mr and Mrs A.D. Hall, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, and Mary, youngest daughter of Canon and Mrs G.F. Bridger, of Oak Hill College, London.

Captain S.M. Hatton and Miss J. Newman
The engagement is announced between Stuart, son of Mrs H.D. Hatton and the late Mr W.L.S. Hatton, of Hampton-in-Arden, West Midlands, and Jayne, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.W. Newman, of Lapworth, Warwickshire.

Mr L.J. Hermacinski and Dr B. Trotman-Dickenson
The engagement is announced between Leo, eldest son of Mr and Mrs James Hermacinski, of Halton, Lancashire, and Beatrice, daughter of Sir Aubrey and Lady Trotman-Dickenson, of Siston Court, Siston.

Mr A.J. Histed and Miss K.M.S. Bowker
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Histed, of Garsington, Oxford, and Katharine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Bowker, of Cumnor, Oxford.

Mr S.J. Kavanagh and Miss L.C. Partridge
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Kavanagh, of Edwardes Square, London, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Terence Partridge, of Saltash, Cornwall.

Mr N.P. Kirkham and Miss S.M.W. Sutcliffe
The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr and Mrs D. Kirkham, of Amington, Staffordshire, and Sheila, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.C. Sutcliffe, of Farnhill, West Yorkshire, formerly of Mill Hill, London.

Mr S. Kynigos and Miss A.T. Lloyd
The engagement is announced between Stefanos, elder son of Mr and Mrs Polychronis Kynigos, of Athens, Greece, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Lloyd, of Regent's Park, London.

Mr J.M. Stewart and Miss J.J. Ferguson
The engagement is announced between James, middle son of Mr Robin Stewart, QC, and Mrs Stewart, of Sevenoaks, and Jennifer Jane, eldest daughter of Mr Kenneth Ferguson, MRCVS, and Mrs Ferguson, of Longburton, Dorset.

Marriages

Mr R.D.A. Carnegie and Miss M.A.L. Creswell
The marriage took place on Saturday, February 5, at St Mary's, Wraxall, Dorset, of Rory, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Carnegie, and Miranda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Creswell. The Rev Tim West officiated.

Colonel J.T.M. Childs and Mrs S.R. Gildon
The marriage took place on Friday at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London, of Colonel John Taillefer Merrick Childs and Mrs Sarah Rosemary Gildon.

The reception was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club followed by a luncheon.

Westonbirt School

Scholarships and Exhibitions 1994

Scholarships and Exhibitions have been awarded to the following:

Scholarships: Ella Simkins, The Querns School, Cirencester; Emma Williams, Westonbirt; Charlotte Thornycroft, Westonbirt.

Exhibitions: Eleanor Street, The Querns School, Cirencester; Charlotte Wood, Westonbirt; Kirsty Sellicks, Hatherop Castle School, Gloucestershire; Julia Hallpike, Canada; Phillippa Warrington, Hatherop Castle School, Gloucestershire; Catherine Hallpike, Canada.

Lord Wright

The life barony conferred upon Sir Patrick Richard Henry Wright has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Wright of Richmond**, of Richmond upon Thames, London.

Falkner House

To mark the 40th anniversary of Falkner House all former pupils and staff are invited to an evening reception on March 1. Please telephone 071-373 4501.

Church services tomorrow

Seventh Sunday before Easter

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Missa in honorem S Dominici (Rubbra), The Vice-Dean; 3.15 E, Blair in B minor; 6.30 S, The Precentor.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Britten), The Dean; 3 E & Installation of Honorary Canons, Sumsion in G.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C, Canon Peter Southwell-Sander; 11.15 M, Britten in E, Canon Paul Brett; 6 Choral E, The Vice-Provost.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Lit; 8 HC; 10 Choral M, John Rutter in C, Canon Trevor Dennis; 11.30 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina); 3.30 Choral E, Short Service (Ayleward); 6.30 E, Canon C Barton.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Victoria in C sharp minor, Rev Eric Woods; 3 German Lutherans; 5.30 E, Harwood in A flat.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in A, Canon Hodgson; 11.15 HC, Mass in five parts (Byrd), Canon Pedley; 3.30 E, Purcell in G minor.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Rev Canon Brian Hebblethwaite; 3.45 E, Stanford in A.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Mozart in C, The Chancellor; 4 Choral E, The First Service (Gibbons).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Lit; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Darke in E, Rev Peter Godden; 11.15 M, The Dean; 3.45 E, Wood in C minor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Harwood in A flat, Preb D Morris; 3.30 E, Harwood in A flat.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Lit; 8, 12.15 H Euch; 9 Parish Euch, The Dean; 11 S Euch Schubert in C, Canon in Residence; 3.30 Choral E, Gloucester S (Howells); 6.30 Parish E, Rev JF Redvers Harris.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis in F (Mozart), Canon John Atherton; 6.30 E, Brewer in D, Rev Alma Servant.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Rev Stephen Knowers; 3 E, Fourth S (Batten), Canon David Rhys.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, The Dean; 10 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), The Deacon; 6 E, Statham in E minor, The Dean.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Darke in E, Rev GO Farran; 11.30 M, Sumsion in G, Holroyd in D; 3 E, Dyson in D, Preb DR Hooper.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Short S (Byrd); 11.15 Euch, Mass in four parts (Byrd), Canon Paul Bates; 3 E, Magnificat quinti toni (Praetorius), Rev Paul Ferguson.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10 MP; 10.30 Solemn M, Mass for five voices (Byrd); 3.30 V&B, Magnificat primi toni (Bevan); 4.30 Organ Rec, Iain Simcock.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), The Dean; 11.30 M, Stanford in A; 4 E, Blair in B minor, The Dean.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 11 Choral M, Stanford in B flat, The Dean.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 6 LM; 10 Family M; 11.30 Solemn M, Mass in Aeolian Mode (Casciolini), Fr Anthony Richins.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 MS, The Minister; 11.30 MS, Donnie Munro; 6 Lasswade High School Recorder Gp; 8 ES, Dr Michael McCabe.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Collegium Regale (Howells), Ven George Cassidy; 11.30 HC, Missa O gloriosum (Victoria); 3.15 E, Walmisley in B flat, Rev Canon Dr David Atkinson.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, Dundee: 8 HC; 9.40 Sung C; 11 Choral Euch, Darke in E, Canon Jones; 6.30 Choral E, Friedell in F, The Provost.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 11 HM, Messe Solennelle (Vierne), Rev P McGeary; 6 E&B, Wood in D, Rev CA Jones.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11 C, Rev Stephen Wookey; 6.30 S, Pastor Greg Laurie.

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 9, 11 Worship; 10 Sunday School, Rev James Schmidt.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 S, Missa O regem coeli (Palestrina).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children's S; 11 M, Rev D Mean; 6 Choral E.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 S, Rev Stanley Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 11 M, Mass for three voices (Byrd); 12.15 M, Fr Anthony Meredith.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Mr Jeremy Jennings; 11 Informal S, Rev Sandy Millar; 6.30 Informal S, Rev Tom Gillum.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.30, 4.30, 7 M; 11 Colloredo Mass (Mozart); 3.30 V&B, Ave verum (Gounod).

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev John D Walker.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30 S, Rev Dr R John Tudor.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev Paul M Werger; 7 Lutheran Choral V, Arias for soprano & organ (Bach), Rev Ronald T Englund.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M & 6.30 E, Short Service (Byrd), Rev Anthony Winter.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Stanford in C; 6.30 Choral E, Wise in F, Canon John Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Darke in F, Rev GB McAvoy.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 S, Rev Eleanor J McMahon; 6.30 S, Rev John H McIndoe.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 Sung M, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Fr Kit Cunningham.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Casciolini), Very Rev John McCarthy.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Choralis (Liszt), Rev Graham Buckle; 6 Choral E, Third Service (Byrd), Rev Bill Wilson.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 MP & HC, Mass Setting Four (Byrd), Rev Derek Watson; 6.30 E, Rev Gerald Beauchamp.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa Simile est Regnum (Guerrero), Rev AK Shaw.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 M, Benedictus in D flat, Canon Anthony Harvey; 12.15 HC.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev Bernhard Schunemann; 11.30 Visitors to London S, Rev John Pridmore; 2.45 Chinese S, Rev Peter Kao; 5 Choral E; 6.30 ES, Rev Bernhard Schunemann.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 9.45, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa Brevis in C (Mozart), Fr Bill Scott; 6 Solemn E&B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), George Lunn; 6 EP.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Cellensis (Haydn), Rev R McLaren.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: Choral M, Nares in F, Rev D B Evans.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Missa ad Fugam (Palestrina), Rev Neil Dawson.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa Vinum Bonum (Lassus), Ven C Young.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 Solemn M, Messa di Gloria (Puccini), Canon Christopher Colven; 6 EP & B.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Vaughan Williams in G, Canon JGMW Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, My beloved spake (Hadley), Bishop of Chelmsford.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Sumsion in G; 3.30 E, Second Service (Tomkins).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Britten), Canon Gordon Reid.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Collegium Regale (Howells), The Chaplain; 12.30 HC.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Sowerby in B flat, Rev Canon DJ Burgess.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, March from *Aida*, Band of Blues and Royals; 12 HC.

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Joel 2 : 13 (REB)

BIRTHS

ARMSTRONG - On 9th February 1994 in Singapore, to Louise (née Parnaby) and Angus, a son, Hugo Charles, a brother for James.

BYRNE - On February 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Christine (née Koons) and John, a handsome son, Joseph Austin, a brother for Jack.

CHASTEL de BOINVILLE - On 8th February 1994, to Louise (née Rayner) and Nicolas, a daughter, a sister for Thomas and Julia.

COX - On 8th February 1994 at The Portland Hospital, to Denis and Isabelle (née Keith), a son, Charles Fitzherbert Tillman, a brother for Helena.

EL-MALLAH - On February 8th at the Wellington Hospital, to Dominique (née Oyolu) and Salloum El-Mallah, a beautiful daughter, Samia, a sister for Tanios.

FINNEY - On Wednesday January 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Margaret (née Donlon) and Nicholas, a daughter, Theadora Florence Donlon, a sister for Roraig. Deo Gratias

GARCIA - On February 9th at the Wellington Hospital, to Nicola (née Musikanti) and Philip, a son.

HILLSBOROUGH - On February 10th, to Janey and Nicholas, a daughter, Beatrice Hannah Georgina (Hill), a sister for Isabella.

McALISTER - On 9th February, to Hazel and Hugh, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, a son, Hector James Lothian, a brother for Henry.

POUNCEY - On January 16th, to Susan (née Mills) and David, a daughter, Jennifer Susan.

SANDY - On Tuesday 8th February, at Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester, to Susan (née Shaw) and William, the precious gift of a son, Thomas.

SHERSTON-BAKER - On February 8th, to Vanessa (nee Baird) and Robert, a daughter, Amy Margaret, a sister for David.

TAKEHIDE - On February 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Kenka Karasawa and Takehiko, a first boy, born in U.K Birthtime 8.15 am.

VAN HORN - On February 3rd, to Joanne (née Sundby) and Karl, a son, George Henry, a brother for Harry.

WOODRUFF - On February 4th in Bangkok, Thailand, to Lucy (née Walden) and Henry, a son, Frederick Benjamin.

DEATHS

CLYDE - Peacefully at St Vincent's Hospital Kingussie, on 11th February 1994 after a long illness, Robert (Bob) M Clyde M.B.E., aged 68 years, of Aviemore. Beloved husband of Chrissie Daly, dear father of Avril, Fraser and June and a loving grandfather. Funeral Service in St Andrew's Church, Aviemore, on Tuesday 15th February at 1 o'clock, interment thereafter in Insh Cemetery, Kincraig. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu to Lynwilg Ward, St Vincent's, at church door if desired.

DAVID - On 8th February, peacefully, Revd. Edmund David, Sometime Canon Treasurer of Accra. Devoted husband of Mary and father of Faith, loved and loving. Donations in lieu of flowers to St Michael's Hospice, Bartestree, Hereford.

DITTON - On February 8th 1994, Maurice Alfred Hugh (Modge) in his 93rd year. Father of Sally, grandfather of Amelia. Requiem Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, at 10.30 am on Thursday February 17th followed by interment at St Peter's, Newdigate, Surrey at 3 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Help the Aged. Enquiries to Stibbards & Sons, 1032 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, tel: (0702) 74389.

EDLIN - Eric, also known as Oddball, Oddsocks, Oddline, Rik-Rik, The Admiral, Mein Stammen F'uher, Field Marshall and D'artagne, would like it to be known that he has died with his eyes open.

ENTWISTLE - On February 10th, Sir (John Nuttall) Maxwell Entwistle, aged 84 years, of Sedbergh, Cumbria. Dearly beloved husband of Jean who died on 27th December 1993 after a very happy marriage of 53 years. Father of John and Peter, grandfather of Nicholas, Rebecca, Louise and Thomas. Funeral Service at St Andrew's Church, Sedbergh, on Friday 18th February 1994 at 11 am followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired for St Andrew's Church c/o J.J. Martin Funeral Directors, Sedbergh, Cumbria, tel: (0539) 626334

FOUNTAIN - Stephen Andrew Aviator, died 9th February 1994 aged 68 years After a long and turbulent flight a gentle landing by a brave professional Requiem Mass Thursday 17th February St Mary and St Augustine Church, Stamford, Lincolnshire at 2.45 pm. No mourning please. Family flowers only. Donations in his memory would be gratefully received by Ward 10, Edith Cavell Hospital for their Pegasus Bed Appeal or MacMillan Cancer Relief c/o R.J. Scholes Funeral Directors, 18 Empingham Road, Stamford, Lincs.

HARDY - Lindsay John. The funeral of Lindsay Hardy, Writer, Playwrite, will be held at the South West Middlesex Crematorium on Tuesday February 15th at 10 30am. A brilliant, solitary man, much loved by his sisters, Alfreda and Marjory and families in Australia.

IVE - On February 7th, Oliver MRCS LRCP, peacefully at home, beloved husband of Pamela, father of Deirdre and Derek, grandfather of Rebecca and Alexander. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service at Easebourne Parish Church, near Midhurst, Friday 11th March at 2.30 pm. Flowers and enquiries to L.F. Linlott Ltd., (0730) 813264.

McINTOSH - Albert William (Mac) peacefully at home on February 10th aged 89, dear husband of the late Jenny and father of Andrew and Mary. Funeral at St Marylebone Crematorium on Wednesday February 16th at 1 pm. Donations to North London Hospice, 47 Woodside Avenue, London N12 8TF.

MORRIS - John Hilary. On February 8th peacefully at home aged 82. For 54 years loving husband of Frances, devoted father of David, Alastair, Katharine and William and much loved by 11 grandchildren. Funeral 2pm February 18th at St Mary Magdalene Church, Little Brickhill. Family flowers only. Donations to Willen Hospice c/o Neville Funeral Service, The Old Church, Flitwick Road, Ampthill, MK45 2NT (0525) 406132.

PARKER - Peacefully in his sleep on 8th February - Charles Richard (Dick). Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral 1pm St Mary's, Bathwick, Bath, Avon. Flowers to Co-op Funeral Directors, Pulteney Road, Bath, Avon or donations to Parkinson's Disease Society, 36 Portland Place, London W1.

PITT-RIVERS - On 3rd February, peacefully at home. Stella. Funeral held privately.

THOMPSON - On February 10th peacefully at Croft House, Great Dunmow, Jean Frances Arden (née Hillary), much loved wife of Vernon C. Thompson, FRCS, devoted mother of Anthony, Annette, Nicholas and Lynn, and grandmother of Andrew, Roderick, Jonah, Simon and Hilary. Funeral Service at Cambridge City Crematorium on Friday February 18th at noon. Flowers and enquiries to Co-operative Funeral Services, 34 James St, Cambridge (Tel. 0223 357046).

WISEMAN - On February 10th 1994, peacefully in hospital, after a long illness borne with great cheerfulness, Jill Moreton. Much loved sister, aunt and great-aunt. Funeral private.

WOOD - Thomas Arthur of Stratford-upon-Avon, peacefully on 10th February, aged 81. The very dear husband of Irene. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, on Monday 28th February at 2pm. Donations if desired to Warwickshire Masonic Charitable Association c/o John Hackney, 2 Sterling Road, Birmingham B16 9SB.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

THOMASINA Hill - A service of commemoration for the life of Thomasina Hill (née Lawson) will be held on Saturday 26th February at 2pm in Mynyddygarreg, Wales. For further details and directions, phone 0554 890760. Donations should be sent to Prince Philip Hospital (Thomasina), Llanelli, Dyfed, Wales.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

CORRIE - D.M.L., 12.02.85. A host of Golden Daffodils.

RUBY - In loving memory of our wonderful son Martin Ruby 6th June 1962 - 12th February 1993. We all miss you so very much, Mum, Dad, Karen, Rod, Kathryn, Nan and your many friends.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

REES - Charles and Margaret. Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary. Love, Emma and Richard.

REES:THOMSON - On 12th February 1944 at St Columba's, Pont Street, Chelsea, Charles to Margaret Fernie. Love and congratulations from Graham, Rowena, Andrina and Andrew. 'Here's to us, wha's like us!'

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

DOMOTOR, ALBERT of 27 Linthorpe Road, London N16 died on 17th May 1993. Particulars to Goodman Derrick Solicitors of 90 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1EQ (Ref KGB/134121) before 13th April 1994.

GILBERT, GEORGE ALAN of 21 Rawlins Close, South Croydon CR2 8JS died on 21st July 1993: Particulars to ROWE & MAW Solicitors of 20 Blackfriars Lane, London EC4V 6HD (Ref: 213/25273-1) before 13th April 1994

HOPLEY, VIOLET, 15 Ruskin Road, Carshalton, Surrey. Died 12th May 1993: Particulars to Piper Smith & Basham, Solicitors, (Ref: H146.2.MS SM.HOPLEY) 31 Warwick Square, London SW1V 2AF before 22nd April 1994

Mary Constance Service late of 7 Christchurch Street, Chelsea, London SW3 Died 11th August 1993. Particulars to Messrs Wainwrights Solicitors of 81 Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 1LF before 30th April 1994

Notice under Trustee Act 1925 In the estate of Mrs Betty Saunders deceased
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act, 1925, that any person having a claim against or an interest in the estate of Mrs Betty Saunders late of Thamesfield, Wargrave Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon (formerly of The Grange, Grange Close, Manor Road, Goring-on-Thames, Oxon) who died on the 26th December 1993 is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his/her claim or interest to the undersigned, the solicitors for the Executors before the 15th day of April 1994 after which date the Executors will distribute the estate among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice and will not as respects the property so distributed, be liable to any person of whose claim or interest they shall not then have had notice
Dated this 27th day of January 1994
Lovell White Durrant
65 Holborn Viaduct
London EC1A 2DY
Ref. BB/SJD/DED/HNH
Solicitors for the Executors

Re WILLIAM HUBERT LAMBLE POLYBLANK DECEASED
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925
Notice is hereby given that the person having an interest in the Estate of WILLIAM HUBERT LAMBLE POLYBLANK late of 47 Montacute Road, Morden who died on the 2nd day of December 1993 is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the undersigned the Solicitor for the said Administratrices on or before the 15th day of April 1994 after which date the Administratrices will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the Claims and interests of which they shall then have had notice
Dated this 10th day of February 1994.
Quirke & Company
Solicitors for the said Administratrices 14 Barclay Road, Croydon CR0 1JN

RITCHIE, ELIZABETH of 3a LYNE COURT, REEVES AVENUE, KINGSBURY, LONDON died on 18th July 1993: Particulars to IVOR DENFIELD & CO. Solicitors of 272 Kingsbury Road, Kingsbury, London NW9 0RT before 13th April 1994.

SEEAR, ROY of 400 BROMLEY ROAD, DOWNHAM, KENT BR1 4PL died on 19th January 1994. Particulars to CLARKSON WRIGHT & JAKES Solicitors of Valiant House, 12 Knoll Rise, Orpington, Kent BR6 0PG (Ref. LED) before 13th April 1994.

TAYLOR, LEILA of The Nursing Home, Twyford, Winchester, Hampshire died on 9th October 1993. Particulars to James & Sarch Solicitors of 3 Field Court, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5EN before 30th April 1994.

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTING

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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GERMAN schoolboy, 12 years, seeks a 2/3 week stay (end of July / August 94) with British family, preferably with boy of same age and interest to countervisit the German family in the South of Germany (Allgau/ Lake Konstanz area). If parents interested, please Reply to Box No 5800

JULIE & KARINA. Have a happy day today, good luck with the rain. To my 2 best ladies.

KNOWLEDGE of Edgar Senior or E Douglas Fawcett Photographers in 1900? Fax 0101 415 337 6280 or write Prof. W Atschuler, 393 San Benito Way, San Benito Way, San Francisco, CA 94127 USA.

MITCHELL completing family tree, seeking decendents of Charles Mitchell tailor in London about 1900, born in Stirling 1864. Tel great-nephew at 0786 474383.

REVOLUTIONARY article titled "A Brief History Of No Time" Contact M Gedge Tel 0323 765615. (24 Hours).

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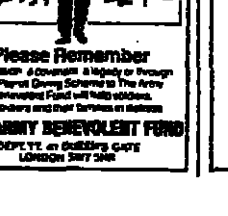
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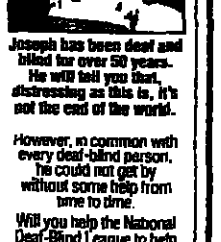
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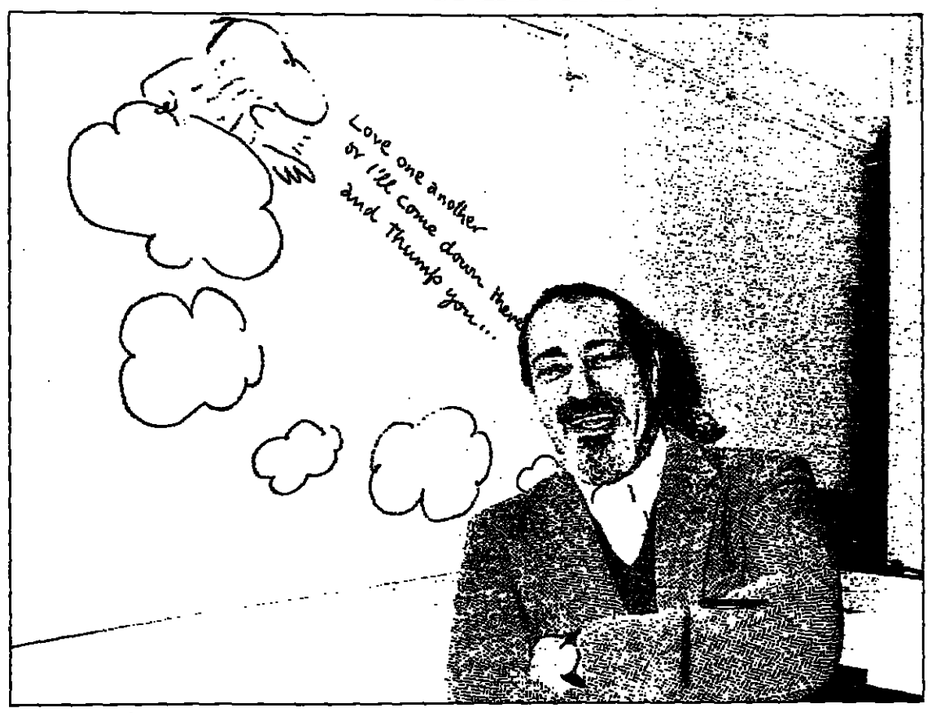
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OBITUARIES

MEL CALMAN

Mel Calman, pocket cartoonist, died on February 10 aged 62. He was born on May 19, 1931.



MEL CALMAN was pocket cartoonist for *The Times*, artist, writer, designer, and a quizzical mirror of his age. A pocket cartoon occupies only a square inch or two of the daily acres of newsprint. But these daily squiggles, scribbled under the shadow of a looming and unforgiving deadline, can pack more punch than the biggest headline. Masters of the art form come only about once a generation. But at their rare best, such modern miniaturists define their generation.

Mel Calman was one of the best. This was not because he was a brilliant or even a competent *draughtsman*, as he discovered to his chagrin at art school. His worried little people with huge noses all looked the same, and were made with a few simple curves — much the biggest representing the nose. His ideas about politics and the eternal war between men and women were naive and even childlike. But he caught the mood of our age of anxiety about relationships and cynicism about politics more powerfully than a thousand sociological treatises.

His humour was of the black, self-deprecating Jewish variety, in the style of his New York heroes, James Thurber, S. J. Perelman, and Woody Allen. He was not joking when he listed his recreations in *Who's Who* as "brooding and worrying". He was laconic, but what he said was usually pointed, if not barbed. When asked why his work was so minimalist, for instance using just two lines to show a beard to signify a psychiatrist, Calman replied gruffly: "To save pencils."

The founding father of the tiny art genre, Osbert Lancaster, composed his daily pictorial sermonette on the news of the day through establishment figures such as gaitered bishops at the Athenaeum, pin-striped Tory politicians and Maudie Littlehampton. Mark Boxer harpooned the mood of the Sixties through the Stringalongs and other Hampstead trendies and intellectuals. Calman's cartoons were classless for the new age. His worried Everyman was the man on the Clapham omnibus, except that Calman would not have known how to catch a bus or where Clapham was. He was the Tony Hancock of cartoonists, expressing the doubts and suppressed rage of the little man about politics, life, and especially women. The springs of his humour came from relationships, love and anxiety, in all of which he had won battle honours. He got to the heart of his age, and future historians will develop a truer picture of the past generation from Calman's little commentaries than from bigger memoirs and official statistics.

Mel Calman was born in Hackney, the son of Russian-Jewish parents, and was evacuated at the age of nine to digs on the outskirts of Cambridge in order to avoid the Blitz. He was unhappy there, evidently not without cause, and claimed to have nurtured his inferiority complex at the Perse School, where he was an exact contemporary of Peter Hall and other high-fliers. He said that he found it really hard work even to come bottom at that school.

When Calman left school, he wanted either to read English at Cambridge or to become a journalist. He failed to get into Cambridge, mainly for financial reasons, he claimed, with characteristic defensiveness, and the course in journalism he tried for was full. So he decided to fall back on a latent desire to draw. He said that he became a cartoonist because at art school they laughed when he sat down to draw.

His first nationally published work was for the *Daily Express* and as an instant topical cartoonist at the end of BBC Television's celebrated news magazine programme, *Tonight*. Throughout his early struggles to establish himself around Fleet Street, he still had a high opinion of his worth. A commissioning editor who had called him in for a rush job complained that he was charging £30 for only two minutes' work. Calman replied: "Yes, but it took me 30 years to learn how to do it." Although he agonised over his work, which he thought was difficult, and grumbled that cartoonists were badly treated by publishers, he loved his trade.

After bouncing around the swings and roundabouts of Fleet Street, Mel Calman came to *The Times* in 1979, and found the front page that suited his talents best. Successful cartoonists, like columnists, both reflect and tease the prejudices of their readers. Calman, who hated leaving the West End unless it were for New York, stalked morosely under his cap into News International towards the end of the day in time to watch the six o'clock news, consulted as briefly as possible the back bench of editors about his daily idea, and went down to the art department to make his mark on tomorrow.

He was hopeless at drawing anything complicated, refusing to modernise his drawings of traditional red telephone kiosks to keep up with the vagaries of British Telecom, and having to be advised on the appearance of telephones and bumble bees. A proper technical artist always had to draw the border round his cartoons. But Calman's professionalism showed on such occasions as the need to produce under the lash dozens of pictures showing the funny side of love on his favourite theme for Valentine's Day, or on Budget Day, when he would turn out 16 drawings in half-an-hour.

Calman had a justifiably high sense of the importance of his miniature art, and was chippy about it. He was not amused when the Duke of Edinburgh, visiting *The Times*, leaned over a display of his work and asked: "Did you draw these on the bus coming in, then?" He enjoyed telling lugubriously the story of sitting at the members' big communal table at the Garrick for the first time, and being asked by his neighbour what he did. When he replied that he was a cartoonist, the neighbour observed: "The trouble with cartoonists is that the ones who have good ideas cannot draw, and the ones who can draw have no ideas. But there is one called simply Calman. And he has no ideas and he cannot draw either."

Calman called his autobiographical sketches from a cartoonist's life *What Else Do You Do?* as a tart example of the question cartoonists are most irritated by. In fact, he did much else. He started the Workshop-gallery, now the Cartoon Gallery, to win cartoonists proper recognition and money for their original drawings. He wrote the text to go with his pictures in many books. Their titles express his world-view: *But It's My Turn to Leave You* (1980), *How About a Little Quarrel Before Bed?* (1981).

He wrote a number of surreal little plays for Radio Three, often exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, illustrated books, designed dust-jackets and advertising campaigns, ran his gallery, worked for charitable causes for graphic designers, and loved the cinema, theatre, opera and the arts. It would have tickled his melancholy sense of the absurd that his fatal heart attack happened in the Odeon, Leicester Square, and that they cleared the cinema and stopped the film. He also enjoyed his later celebrity and improbable election to the British establishment.

Mel Calman married twice, fathering two daughters by his first marriage; and for the past ten years lived as happily as is possible in this wicked world with Deborah Moggach, the novelist.

He could appear gloomy, and even formidable, he wrestled with the black dog of depression, and he enjoyed feuds. But beneath that black carapace Calman had a warm heart and a generous spirit. Day after day he exorcised his demons and made a joke of them in the smallest and most ephemeral of rectangles of newsprint. He pinpricked the portentous bubbles of politicians' pomposity and the self-importance of everyone's self-pity. And so he made his ephemeral work universal and a lasting record.

YVES NAVARRE

Yves Navarre, French novelist and playwright, committed suicide in Paris on January 24 aged 53. He was born in Condom, Gascony, on September 24, 1940.



A BITTER sense of man's capacity to humiliate his own kind was at the heart of almost everything Yves Navarre wrote. His constant refrain was that humanity is enmeshed in the sad plots it makes for itself, a perception darkened in his case by his homosexuality and the constant threat of Aids which attended it. Though he always denied being afflicted with the syndrome, it was a theme which recurred in his work.

In *Les Loukoums* (1973) set in New York, a story of two homosexual lovers one of whom is afflicted by a fatal mystery disease, he wrote perhaps the first novel to deal with Aids, although the condition was not given that name until ten years later. A later novel, *Ce sont amis que vent emporte* (1991), amplifies this theme in a bleak account, relieved only by a few bursts of wintry humour, of the attempt to live a life of at least moderate dignity against the often frenetic backdrop of the activities of Montreal's homosexual community.

Though Gascon born, Yves Henri Michel Navarre was educated just outside Paris at the Lycée Pasteur, Neuilly-sur-Seine. Later he studied at the Ecole des hautes études commerciales du Nord at Lille. He left with diplomas in English, Spanish and modern literature. Thereafter he worked in various advertising and publicity agencies as editor or creative director.

He had started writing at the Lycée Pasteur and had his first novel *Lady Black* published in 1971. But it was with *Les Loukoums* and its two protagonists, the terminally ill Rasky and Luc his much younger lover, that he first attracted serious attention. *Le Jardin d'acclimatation* won for Navarre the 1980 Prix Goncourt. In it, the father of a young homosexual consents to his son's undergoing brain surgery in order to make him heterosexual. The operation fails and the son returns home half blinded with all motivation for living gone. This grim tale achieved its effects through the epistolary method employed by Navarre.

In 1983 Navarre had a stroke and went to Montreal to recover. When, subsequently, he found Paris's literary life uncongenial he went back to Canada and lived in Montreal for three years, writing *Ce sont amis que vent emporte* there. In 1992 he returned to Paris, where he took a flat and led an increasingly reclusive life.

Among his several works for the theatre one, entitled in English *Swimming Pools at War*, was directed in London by Robert Gillespie at the studio theatre Offstage Downstairs in Chalk Farm in 1985. Other works translated into English included *Une Vie de Chat* (1981), in which a pet cat cannily observes the nocturnal amours of his homosexual master.

Navarre was a Chevalier of the Ordre national du Mérite and of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

STANLEY THOMPSON

Stanley Thompson, Headmaster of Bloxham School, 1952-65, died in Malvern on January 28 aged 94. He was born on September 23, 1899.



A SCHOOLMASTER to his fingertips, Stanley Thompson spent his entire working life in two public schools — Sherborne, where he was for 30 years, and Bloxham where, having taken over the headmastership at the relatively late age of 52, he stayed for the last 13 years of his professional life. Not that he ever became a doddering "Mr Chips". Legend always had it, that even at the age of 65, he could take on and defeat any master or boy in the school at Eton Fives.

Reginald Stanley Thompson was the son of Canon C.H. Thompson, vicar of Eastleigh, Hampshire, and of Newport, Isle of Wight. From a clerical background it was natural that he should have been sent to school at Lancing College, the original Woodard foundation. From there he went to Oriel College, Oxford, where he read history, and on coming down from university was almost immediately appointed to the staff of Sherborne School in Dorset. He soon proved himself an outstanding history teacher with a great interest in all the boys he taught. He was still a bachelor when first chosen to be a housemaster at the age of 37 but two years later married his wife Barbara with whom he celebrated his golden wedding six years ago.

The invitation to take on the headmastership of Bloxham — like Lancing, a Woodard school — came at an opportune moment, since at Sherborne he was on the eve of having to retire from his house. (It was by no means as unusual in those days for a man to be appointed to his first public school headmastership at over 50 as it would be today.) In any event, Thompson's maturity offered Bloxham positive advantages. It meant that there were no career distractions to prevent his concentrating all his energies upon the school — he took a particular interest in its inner and spiritual life — and by the time he left he was held not just in affection but in something approaching veneration.

On retirement Thompson and his wife moved to the village of Clifton-on-Theme in Worcestershire where his local church, the county cricket club, the Three Choirs Festival and the daily round of the cathedral all played important parts in his life. He found it difficult to adjust to new patterns in Anglican worship — being a stalwart member of the Prayer Book Society and a staunch opponent of women priests. But his mental faculties remained as alert as ever. He retained to the end an astonishing capacity for remembering names and faces — always a useful attribute in a headmaster.

He is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.

ELIJAH BARAYI

Elijah Barayi, South African trade unionist and anti-apartheid activist, died on January 22 aged 63. He was born in Cradock, Eastern Cape Province, on April 15, 1930.

ON THE day before he died, Elijah Barayi was named by the African National Congress as a candidate for South Africa's all-race general election in April. He was 79th on its list and would have been virtually assured of a seat in the 400-member national assembly which is to be chosen by proportional representation.

At the headquarters of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in Johannesburg there were expressions of regret that he had not been spared to serve in the new government. The irony is that when COSATU, an alliance partner, with the South African Communist Party, of the ANC, published its own list of 20 election candidates recently, Barayi was not among them. South Africa's largest trade union federation with 1.2 million members had changed since its formation in 1985 when he became its first president.

Barayi was a cloth-cap trade unionist who, until retirement last year, still spent several hours a day underground at the Blyvooruitzicht gold mine where he was employed as a personnel officer. He felt more comfortable staying in close touch with workers' conditions than in bargaining across a boardroom table. Nevertheless, he was a tough and forceful union organiser who helped form the National Union of Mineworkers, one of COSATU's major affiliates, when black trade unionism was legalised for the first time in South Africa in 1982. He said he joined it "because the workers were paid peanuts".

Under his influence men like Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC's general secretary and its chief intermediary at the constitutional talks, cut their political teeth at the wage bargaining table. Barayi, a Sotho, had established a reputation as a political activist and orator in his youth when he was a member of the ANC youth league and when he experienced his first spell of detention without trial for six months in 1960 during the state of emergency declared after the Sharpeville massacre.

More than 20 years later he was to emerge from another spell in prison with a broken arm and the words "Hands off COSATU" printed boldly on the plaster cast. Like thousands of other men he became a gold miner with reluctance. Because of influx control laws it was the only way to escape from the poverty of the Eastern Cape to relatively secure employment in the Johannesburg area. For years he lived in a migrant workers' hostel, sending money home to his family. As president of COSATU he advocated nationalisation of the mines "so blacks can get some fruit from their sweat and toil". But he also claimed that as a supporter of the Freedom Charter he believed in non-racialism.

Barayi is survived by his wife Nontebelo, and four children.

FRANCIS PERKINS

Francis Perkins, CBE, DSC, founding chairman of the Insurance Brokers Registration Council, died on February 5 aged 81. He was born on February 7, 1912.



THE crowning achievement of Francis Perkins's career was to turn the insurance broking business into a profession. Virtually anyone until 1977 could set himself up as an insurance broker, joining one of four trade associations. That this is no longer the case is due to him.

The threat of draconian controls imposed by Whitehall, persuaded Perkins — who was then chairman of Hogg Robinson — to press for a programme of internal rationalisation and reform. Enlisting the help and support of Sir Jack Page, then Conservative MP for Harrow West, he pioneered a Private Member's Bill to introduce statutory self-regulation. With encouragement from the junior trade minister of the day, Stanley Clinton Davis, it scraped through Parliament at midnight before the recess.

The 1977 Insurance Brokers (Registration) Act set up the present registration council to scrutinise applications from new brokers and to discipline those who failed to live up to its standards.

Francis Perkins, appointed a CBE for his efforts that year, became the first chairman, not only of the council from 1977 until 1984, but also of the British Insurance Brokers Association (BIBA), the professional body which replaced the four old trade associations.

Yet, despite his lasting contribution to its future, Perkins was only a late starter in the broking business. He was the son of Montague ("Monty") Perkins, a partner in the London law firm of Lee, Bolton and Lee. With offices in The Sanctuary, Westminster, the firm specialised in ecclesiastical law and represented successive Archbishops of Canterbury.

Francis Layton Perkins went to Charterhouse, where he showed an early aptitude for sport, before being articled to his father's firm on leaving school. He practised for several years after qualifying, but was then caught up in the Second World War.

As an officer in the Royal Naval Voluntary Reserve (RNVR), Perkins spent the first part of the war commanding mine-sweepers, based first at Sheerness and then at Portsmouth. He won his DSC in 1940, when his minesweeper was hit by a bomb which went straight down its funnel before exploding — ripping the vessel in two. Flung clear into the sea off Ramsgate, Perkins was lucky to escape with his life.

He was next posted to the submarine base at Blyth, Northumberland, in 1943, and then in the following year to the Admiralty in London. By now a full commander, he worked on posting reserve officers like himself, until the end of the war.

After being demobilised, he joined the large law firm of Clifford Turner as a partner and worked there until the early 1960s. He was then invited by a golfing friend, Teddy Hogg, to join the board of his family company, Hogg Robinson. This altered the focus of Perkins's career. Becoming chairman in 1967, he stayed with the company until the age of 65, when he left to head the new registration council.

Perkins was a gifted negotiator and committee chairman, combining immense courtesy and charm with a strong personality and an incisive mind. A clubbable, sociable man, the number of his friends and acquaintances was legion. Not only was he always in demand, but he was said to be incapable of saying "no".

The result was that he became increasingly involved in a wide variety of organisations, apart from those connected with his work. These included the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, the Institute of Laryngology and Otology and St Bartholomew's Hospital.

He was chairman of the Bart's fund-raising committee and a member of its Research Development Trust. He was made master of the Skinners Company in 1966 and through that connection became a governor of Tonbridge School.

Yet he still found time to maintain his sporting prowess. As a young man he was one of London's leading amateur tennis players who represented Middlesex and was thought at one time to be on the fringe of a Davis Cup place. A member of the All-England Lawn Tennis Club, he was friendly with all the stars of those days, including the last British Men's Singles Wimbledon champion, Fred Perry.

He had a golfing handicap of three, and belonged to as many as four clubs, including the Royal St George's. A few days before the short illness from which he died, he went round the Swinley course in Berkshire in 77 — an enviable feat for many half his age. He was a member of the MCC and in later years found the time to take up fishing.

Tall, slim and erect, with a full head of hair, Perkins wore his age well — perhaps as a result of such activity. He never fully retired and in 1983, aged 71, was invited to rejoin Clifford Turner (now part of the giant law firm Clifford Chance) as a consultant.

Off-duty and away from the sports arena he cultivated a fondness for good wine and was a knowledgeable authority on port.

Francis Perkins's first marriage was dissolved in 1971, after 30 years, and he is survived by his second wife, Jill, and by a son and twin daughters from his first marriage.

Weekend anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Thomas Campion, poet and musician, London, 1567; Jan Swammerdam, entomologist, Amsterdam, 1637; Cotton Mather, Puritan and writer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1663; George Hadley, meteorologist, London, 1685; William Whitehead, poet laureate 1757-85, Cambridge, baptised this day 1715; Charles Darwin, naturalist, Shrewsbury, 1809; Abraham Lincoln, 16th American President 1861-65, Larue County, Kentucky, 1809; Edward Forbes, naturalist, Douglas, Isle of Man, 1815; George Meredith, novelist, Portsmouth, 1828; Marie Lloyd, music hall singer, London, 1870; Omar Nelson Bradley, American army general, Clark, Missouri, 1893; Max Beckmann, Expressionist painter, Leipzig, 1884; Roy Harris, composer, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, 1898.

DEATHS: Lady Jane Grey, Queen of England May 6-19, 1553, executed London, 1554; Charles Le Brun, painter, Versailles, 1690; Pierre Marivaux, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1763; Ts'ao Hsueh-ch'in, novelist, Peking, 1763; Immanuel Kant, philosopher, Königsberg, Germany, 1804; Sir Astley Cooper, surgeon, London, 1841; Hans von Bülow, pianist and conductor, Cairo, 1894; Lillie Langtry, actress, Monte Carlo, 1929; Charles Voysey, architect, Winchester, 1941; H.M. Bateman, cartoonist, Malta, 1970; Leon Goossens, oboist, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1988.

French troops who landed at Pembrokeshire surrendered, 1797.

Chile's independence was proclaimed in Santiago, 1818.

J.W. Goodrich of Boston, Massachusetts, invented rubber galoshes, 1831.

The first inter-club football match was played at Sheffield between Sheffield and Hallam, 1861.

The Manchu dynasty was overthrown and China became a republic, 1912.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: John Hunter, physiologist and surgeon, East Kilbride, 1728; David Allan, painter, Alloa, 1744; Lord Randolph Churchill, statesman, Blenheim Palace, 1849; Feodor Chaliapin, singer and actor, Kazan, Russia, 1873; Eleanor Farjeon, writer of children's verse and stories, London, 1881; Georges Simenon, writer and creator of Maigret, Liège, 1901.

DEATHS: Benvenuto Cellini, sculptor and goldsmith, Florence, 1571; Jacopo da Bassano, painter, Bassano, Venice, 1592; Cotton Mather, Puritan and writer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1728; Richard Wagner, composer, Venice, 1883; Georges Rouault, Expressionist painter, Paris, 1958; Dame Christabel Pankhurst, suffragette, Los Angeles, 1958.

The Macdonalds were massacred at Glencoe by the Campbells, 1692.

The Dutch spy Mata Hari was arrested by the French, 1917.

The Nuffield Foundation was established, 1943.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the USSR, 1974.

Appointments

John Malcolm Geddes, Mrs Susan Henson and Barry Ian Rutland to be joint district judges, Mr Geddes for the districts of the Burnley, Blackburn, Accrington, Nelson and Rawtenstall County Courts, and in the District Registry of the High Court at Burnley and Blackburn; Mrs Henson for the districts of the Uxbridge and Brentford County Courts; and Mr Rutland for the districts of the Norwich, Bury St Edmunds, Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn County Courts and in the District Registry of the High Court at Norwich, Bury St Edmunds, Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn.

Mrs Eleri Mair Rees and Miss Elizabeth Joanna Roscoe to be Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrates from May 3.

The following to be Recorders on the North Eastern Circuit:

D.J. Ake, P.J.B. Armstrong, P.D. Batty, J. Evans, J.R.W. Goss, J.M. Norris, A.J. Robertson, J.A. Swanson, M.J. Taylor, T.M. Walsh.

THE WAR.

THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

(From Our Special Correspondent)

CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, Jan. 25.

A "lovely day" — calm and sunny. The night was very cold and frosty and the Russians gave an alert all along their lines about 3 o'clock in the morning, for which both French and English were quite ready. A circumstance occurred in Balaklava to-day which I will state for the calm consideration of the public at home without one single word of comment. The Charity, an iron screw steamer, is at present in harbour for the reception of sick British soldiers, who are under the charge of a British medical officer. That officer went on shore to-day and made an application to the officer in charge of the Goverment stoves for two or three to put on board the ship to warm the men. "Three of my men," said he, "died last night from choleraic symptoms, brought on in their present state from the extreme cold of the ship; and, I fear more will follow them from the same cause." "Oh!" said the guardian of the stoves, "you must make your requisition in due form, send it up to headquarters, and get it signed properly and returned, and then I will let you have the stoves." "But my men may die meantime." "I can't help that; I must have the the requisition." "It is my firm belief that there are men now in a dangerous state whom another night will certainly kill." "I really can do nothing; I must have a requisition properly signed before I can give one of these stoves away." "For god's sake, then, *lend* me some; I'll be responsible for their safety." "But, consider, this requisition will take time to be filled up and signed and meantime these poor fellows will go." "I cannot help that." "I'll be responsible for anything you do." "Oh, no, that can't be done" "Will a requisition signed by the P.M.O. of this place be of any use?" "No." "Will it answer if he takes on himself the responsibility?" "Certainly not." The surgeon went off in sorrow and disgust. Such are the "rules" of the service in the hands of incapable and callous men.

But here is a special fact for Dr. Smith, the head of the British Army Medical Department. A surgeon of a regiment stationed on the cliffs above Balaklava, who has about 40 sick out of 300 men, has been applying to the "authorities" in the town for the last three weeks for medicines, all simple and essential, and cannot get one of them. The list he sent in was returned with the observation, "We have none of these medicines, in store." To-day this poor surgeon, too, came down with his last appeal: "Do, I beg of you, give me any medicine you have for diarrhoea." "We *haven't any*." "I have a good many cases of rheumatism among my men. Can you let me have any medicines for them?" "*We haven't any*." Thus, for the most prevalent complaints of the army there were no specifics whatever and the surgeon returned up the hill side with the bitter reflection that he could give no aid to the unfortunate men under his care.

Can any one of the "*facts*" I have stated be denied? Certainly not by any one who is not a shameless utterer of falsehoods.

ON THIS DAY

February 12 1855

Our correspondent was William Howard Russell. From the first landings in the Crimea in 1854 he had criticised the Army for its inefficiency and bureaucracy. His dispatches had their effect: on February 6, 1855 the Aberdeen coalition was replaced by Palmerston's government.

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12 1994

NEWS

Doctors' overcharging to be ended

■ The cost of private medicine is set to fall after senior consultants and the British Medical Association were ordered yesterday to end a cartel that operated against the interests of the paying public and to withdraw a BMA list of prices for private operations.

One health-care firm said health insurance premiums could fall by 20 per cent .....Page 1

Carey attacks dull church services

■ The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has *criticised the "long lessons, lots of prayers, dull sermons, and* hymns that dragged on" in the "wordy services" of the Church of England.....Page 1

Allitt enquiry plea

Parents of children murdered or maimed by Beverly Allitt have demanded a full public enquiry after denouncing the findings of Sir Cecil Clothier's report as a "whitewash"..... Pages 1, 2

Air strike talks

President Clinton telephoned President Yeltsin yesterday but the *two leaders evidently failed to* resolve completely their differences over Nato's air strike ultimatum to the Serbs surrounding Sarajevo..... Pages 1, 15

Calman remembered

Britain's best known cartoonists paid tribute to one of their own, Mel Calman, of *The Times*, who died in hospital on Thursday night, aged 62..... Pages 1, 5, 19

Caithness rescue

Tory peers are planning to help the Earl of Caithness after learning he has signed on as unemployed five weeks after his wife's suicide.....Page 3

Family shot dead

Police are investigating the deaths of Alan Taylor, a wealthy builder, his wife and son who were found shot dead at their detached bungalow.....Page 4

Pollution probe

Air pollution by chemicals can be up to 70 times higher indoors than outdoors .....Page 8

Flood of claims

Building firms face compensation payouts of millions of pounds after a tunnel worker suffering from a bone-wasting disease received £200,000.....Page 9

Trade deadlock

Talks failed to resolve a trade row before the first summit between President Clinton and Morihiro Hosokawa, the Japanese Prime Minister..... Page 12

Anniversary party

Security was tightened as Iran marked the 15th anniversary of its Islamic revolution ..... Page 13

Captain Cook holds 'PC' mob at bay

■ With the Australian Prime Minister advocating the axing of constitutional ties with Britain, it is no surprise that "political correctness" is challenging the country's history. This week Queensland education chiefs nearly saw off Captain Cook and his crew of "pioneers" and "discoverers" .....Page 13



The debutantes of Vienna's Young Men and Ladies Committee during the opening polonaise of the city's traditional Opera Ball, which features as the highlight of Austria's annual carnival season

OPINION

By jingo, if we must: Having joined the Bosnia ultimatum, the Government needs to get public opinion firmly behind it..... Page 17

The unthinkable: The Allitt case has shown no institution can secure itself completely against a determined maniac: but much more could be done to close the remaining loopholes..... Page 17

Foul February: If St Valentine's day did not exist, February gives the best excuse for inventing it..... Page 17

PAPERS

Moscow's absence form the current negotiations on the Israeli-Arab conflict proves the narrowing of Russian ambitions

— Le Monde

COLUMNS

DANIEL JOHNSON: The revival in the classics is a popular revolt against the literary establishment..... Page 16

ANTHONY HOWARD: A concessionary library ticket is not much of a consolation on turning 60..... Page 16

LETTERS

How long does it take to visit each Tube stop..... Page 17

OBITUARIES

Mel Calman, *The Times* cartoonist; Francis Perkins, first chairman of the Insurance Brokers Registration Council; Yves Navarre, French novelist and playwright; Elijah Barayi, South African trade unionist; Stanley Thompson, Bloxham School headmaster..... Page 19

BUSINESS

Economy: Britain's trade deficit rose in November to £1.035 billion from £703 million in October..... Page 21

Power: The two firms dominating UK power generation have escaped a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission..... Page 21

Banking: A Lloyds Bank subsidiary has set aside nearly £20 million in case it has to pay compensation to pensions customers who transferred out of occupational schemes..... Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 28.1 points to 3378.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 80.8 to 81.0 after a rise from $1.4617 to $1.4667 and from DM2.5637 to DM2.688..... Page 24

SPORT

Rugby Union: England's senior players will face a stern inquisition from Geoff Cooke, the manager, after last week's disappointing performance against Scotland, when they gather at Richmond today..... Page 35

Winter Olympics: The 1994 Winter Olympics begin today, but there is only one debate in Lillehammer. "Imagine the antithesis of the accepted image of women's figure-skating and you have Tonya Harding." Ben Macintyre reports..... Page 38

Football: The chasing pack will drag their tired bodies and bruised egos into Premiership action this weekend in the seemingly hopeless pursuit of Manchester United..... Page 39

SATURDAY TIMES

VISION



In the air: Baby Jordan Springer sounds like an old man. *Panorama* studies an illness that kills 2,000 people a year..... Page 3

Black in blue: *The Bill* stars the only black female inspector in the UK.... Page 5

WEEKEND



Sex and school: Do you send your daughter to a mixed public school? Mary Ann Sieghart has her doubts..... Page 1

Urban jungle: Kit Hesketh Harvey celebrates the round-the-clock show that is Soho..... Page 9

St Valentine's Day: Louisa Young on ways to find a mate; Hattie Ellis dreams up a sensuous supper; Nicole Swengley suggests gifts that seduce; and Stephen Anderton plans the perfect place to be bowled over..... Pages 3, 4, 7, 14

Farmyard revolt: Paul Heiney senses a plot to overthrow him..... Page 18

WEEKEND ARTS



Laughing machines: Soon, cassettes of classic and alternative comedy acts will be available from vending machines in railway stations, airport lounges, even hospitals. At least, that is the aim of two bright young entrepreneurs.....Page 16

Magic man: Paul Daniels has brought his mixture of conjuring and bluff Yorkshire observations to the West End for a season at the Prince of Wales Theatre..... Page 16

Pinteresque: It is rare to have the chance to hear Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker* in Romanian. This week the National Theatre of Craiova has been at Watermans Arts Centre in Brentford..... Page 16

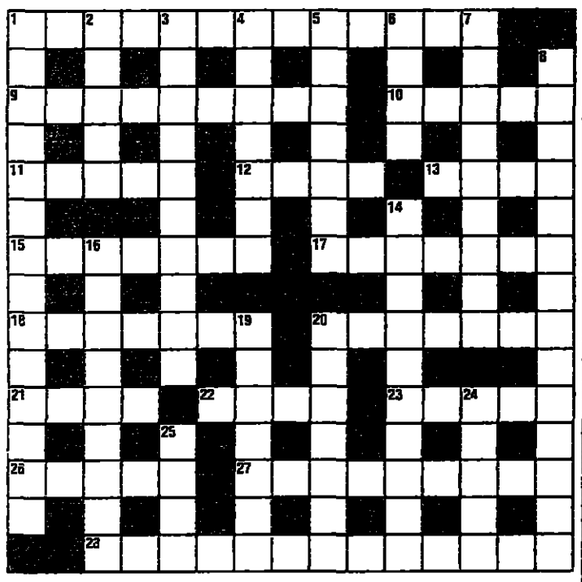
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,464

KNOCKANDO

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a beautifully crafted stationery rack, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....

.....



ACROSS

1 Award given the man who defeats this clue (8,5)
9 Glint half obscured at dusk (9)
10 Torment with the sound of running water (5)
11 Line at end of letter recalls passions (5)
12 Cut down national flag (4)
13 Woman had cast off (4)
15 Metric? Just the opposite (7)
17 Keep mocking administrative centre (7)
18 Sportsmen — dogsbodies who accept money (7)
20 What judges have and are (7)
21 Old prison without bars (4)
22 Act as manager of stud (4)
23 French city ignoring the Sabbath? Surely not! (5)
26 Downtown in Wales (5)
27 Chap at the helm stirred up mare's nest (9)
28 Hard-hearted, contentious letter is sent to accept challenge (5,3,5)

DOWN

1 Where parallel lines meet — discovered by Griffin? (9,5)
2 Very sadly, when match is dropped, you'll see this smoke rising (5)
3 Not working? That's against the rules (3,2,5)
4 Picture appearing in one heartless publication (7)
5 Small room allocated to first musician (7)
6 A curse on all their houses, all their heads (4)
7 In the past, G.I. cooked food (9)
8 Used to control first violins? (7,7)
14 In the ring, low-down novice after a defeat by superior tactics (10)
16 U-turn left a cove out of position (5,4)
19 Who put up the money for "The Godfather"? (7)
20 Happen to visit church to pray (7)
24 Virginia, married to a police sergeant, flirts (5)
25 A short note in which I tender my resignation (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 19.458

C	U	S	T	O	M		M	U	S	C	A	D	E	T
	N		H		A		I		A		R		E	
C	A	L	I	B	R	E	S		P	I	R	A	T	E
	B		C		C		T		T		C		T	
B	A	C	K	D	O	O	R		R	I	G	H	T	O
	T		E		P		E		F		M		T	
	E		S	H	O	W	S	O	F	F		A		U
E	D	I	T		L		S		R		S	E	A	M
Y		N		C	O	N	Q	U	E	S	T		P	
E		C		A		U		E		A		P		
S	P	A	W	N	S		I	N	W	A	R	D	L	Y
I		M		T		C		H		C		A		
G	A	E	L	I	C		K	E	E	L	H	A	U	L
H		R		N		L		E		S				
T	E	A	R	A	W	A	Y		L	A	D	D	E	R

Solution to Puzzle No 19.463

P	O	S	T	M	A	S	T	E	R		A	D	A	M
O		Y		E		C		V		I		I		
O	S	M	O	S	I	S		H	O	U	S	T	O	N
H		B		I		T		E		L		T		E
S	P	O	O	N	B	I	L	L		G	H	O	U	L
		L		F		N		O		A				A
C	A	I	R	O		A	B	N	O	R	M	I	T	Y
H		S		R				F		N		E		
U	L	T	I	M	A	T	U	M		R	A	V	E	R
R				A		O		A		A		E		
C	A	D	E	T		B	E	T	I	C	E	N	C	E
H		E		I		P		C		T		A		
I	M	P	R	O	V	E		H	A	I	R	I	E	R
N		O		N		D		E		O		L		
G	A	T	H		H	O	O	T	E	N	A	N	N	Y

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

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Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouces,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	709
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	710
Shrops,Heralds & Worcs	711
Central Midlands	712
East Midlands	713
Lincs & Humberside	714
Dyfed & Powys	715
Gwynedd & Clwyd	716
N W England	717
W & S Yorks & Dales	718
N E England	719
Cumbria & Lake District	720
S W Scotland	721
W Central Scotland	722
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	723
E Central Scotland	724
Grampian & E Highlands	725
N W Scotland	726
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	727
N Ireland	728

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For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts,Beds/Bucks/Berks,Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex,Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises 7.21 am — Sun sets 5.12pm
Moon sets 7.43 pm — Moon rises 7.34 am

First quarter February 19

London 5.10 pm to 7.21 am
Bristol 5.20 pm to 7.00 am
Edinburgh 5.10 pm to 7.45 am
Manchester 5.11 pm to 7.34 am
Penzance 5.35 pm to 7.29 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises 7.19 am — Sun sets 5.13pm
Moon sets 8.50 pm — Moon rises 7.54 am

First quarter February 18

London 5.12 pm to 7.19 am
Bristol 5.22 pm to 7.26 am
Edinburgh 5.12 pm to 7.43 am
Manchester 5.15 pm to 7.32 am
Penzance 5.36 pm to 7.37 am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.55	7.1	3.16	7.3
Aberdeen	2.03	4.1	2.24	4.3
Avonmouth	8.13	12.0	8.40	12.3
Belfast	—	—	12.06	3.6
Cardiff	9.05	12.37	9.32	12.4
Devonport	5.47	8.50	6.17	9.2
Dover	—	—	11.56	4.2
Falmouth	9.11	9.35	9.37	9.5
Glasgow	3.01	1.51	3.22	2.1
Harwich	12.39	3.54	12.34	4.1
Holyhead	11.26	3.59	11.45	4.1
Hull	7.26	11.49	7.47	12.0
Ilfracombe	7.03	9.35	7.19	9.5
King's Lynn	1.34	5.39	1.55	5.5
Leith	3.39	5.43	4.02	5.5
Liverpool	12.07	9.15	12.32	9.3
Lowestoft	12.49	3.39	1.09	3.5
Margate	10.51	1.51	11.14	2.0
Milford Haven	6.14	11.47	6.34	12.0
Newquay	6.07	7.35	6.31	7.5
Oban	6.45	4.10	7.05	4.3
Penzance	5.45	5.55	6.08	6.0
Portland	7.47	1.20	8.08	1.3
Portsmouth	12.17	7.58	12.38	8.2
Shoreham	10.16	6.32	10.36	6.3
Southampton	11.56	4.43	12.17	4.5
Swansea	7.12	5.56	7.31	6.2
Tees	4.48	5.16	5.05	5.4
Wton-on-Nze	12.32	4.14	12.56	4.1

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Dr B E Davison, Dagmar Road, Wood Green, London; V Nurse, Blenheim Road, Wakefield. I T M Lucas, Newstead Way, London; W Hague, Akeferry Road, West Woodside, Doncaster. S Yorks; A McArthur, Dinorben Close, Fleet, Hants

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Western and northwestern parts of England and Wales, together with Northern Ireland, will be cloudy for much of the day with rain which may be heavy at times in the north.

Remaining areas of the country will turn cooler with some sunshine, especially in areas sheltered from the cold east winds.

There is a small chance of wintry showers in the East, where it will be windy later.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, Midlands, Channel Isles, NW England, Lake District, Central N England:** Dry and cold start. Some sunny periods. Wind southeasterly mainly moderate. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England:** There will be bright or sunny intervals. Perhaps a few showers later. Wind southeasterly mainly moderate. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **SW England, Wales, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** Cloudy with occasional light rain or drizzle. Hill fog patches. Wind south or southeasterly moderate. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** Rather cloudy with a few wintry showers. Wind south or southeast fresh to strong. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** Mainly cloudy with rain, heavy at times. Wind south or southwest moderate or fresh but strong at times. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook:** Turning much colder everywhere with wintry showers in the East and North East.

AROUND BRITAIN

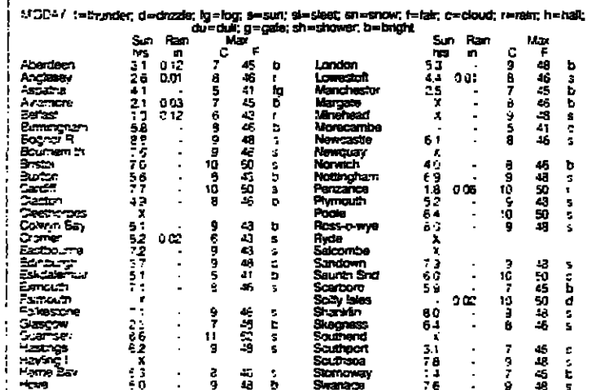
MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; lg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain; h=hail; du=dull; g=gale; sh=shower; b=bright

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.1	0.12	7	45	b	London	5.3	-	9	48	b
Anglesey	2.6	0.01	8	46	r	Lowestoft	4.4	0.01	8	46	s
Aquatrine	4.1	-	5	41	lg	Manchester	0.5	-	7	45	b
Aviemore	2.1	0.03	7	45	b	Margate	X	-	8	46	b
Belfast	1.3	0.12	6	43	r	Minehead	X	-	9	48	s
Birmingham	5.8	-	9	48	b	Morecambe	-	-	5	41	c
Bognor R	8.8	-	9	48	s	Newcastle	6.1	-	8	46	s
Bournem'th	7.3	-	9	48	s	Newquay	X	-	-	-	-
Bristol	7.0	-	10	50	s	Norwich	4.9	-	8	46	b
Buxton	5.6	-	9	48	b	Nottingham	6.9	-	9	48	s
Cardiff	7.7	-	10	50	s	Penzance	1.8	0.06	10	50	r
Chester	4.9	-	8	46	b	Plymouth	5.2	-	9	48	s
Cheltenham	X	-	-	-	-	Poole	6.4	-	10	50	s
Colwyn Bay	5.1	-	9	48	b	Ross-o-wye	6.0	-	9	48	s
Cromer	5.2	0.02	6	43	s	Ryde	X	-	-	-	-
Eastbourne	7.2	-	9	48	s	Salcombe	X	-	-	-	-
Edinburgh	3.1	-	9	48	s	Sandown	7.3	-	9	48	s
Eskdalemuir	5.1	-	8	41	b	Scarb'gh Snd	6.0	-	10	50	s
Exmouth	7.1	-	9	48	s	Scarboro	5.9	-	7	45	b
Falmouth	X	-	-	-	-	Scilly Isles	-	0.02	10	50	d
Folkestone	7.1	-	9	48	s	Shanklin	6.0	-	9	48	s
Glasgow	2.1	-	7	45	b	Skegness	6.4	-	8	46	s
Guernsey	6.6	-	11	52	s	Southend	X	-	-	-	-
Hastings	6.2	-	9	48	s	Southport	3.1	-	7	45	c
Hayling I	X	-	-	-	-	Southsea	7.8	-	9	48	s
Herne Bay	7.3	-	8	46	s	Stornoway	1.3	-	7	45	c
Hove	8.0	-	9	48	b	Swanage	7.6	-	9	48	s
Hunstanton	6.3	-	7	45	s	Teignmouth	7.1	-	9	48	s
Isle of Man	1.9	-	9	48	b	Tenby	4.3	-	7	45	b
Jersey	9.3	-	9	48	s	Tiree	0.2	0.01	7	45	r
Kirkwall	X	-	-	-	-	Torquay	6.8	-	9	48	s
Leeds	6.5	-	10	50	s	Tynemouth	6.2	-	7	45	s
Lerwick	0.9	0.02	8	43	s	Ventnor	8.2	-	10	50	s
Llandudno	5.0	-	8	46	b	Weston-s-mare	5.0	0.01	9	48	s
Lochinver	1.5	-	9	48	s	Weymouth	6.3	-	9	48	s
Liverpool	2.9	-	7	45	b	Wick	1.8	-	6	43	r

ABROAD

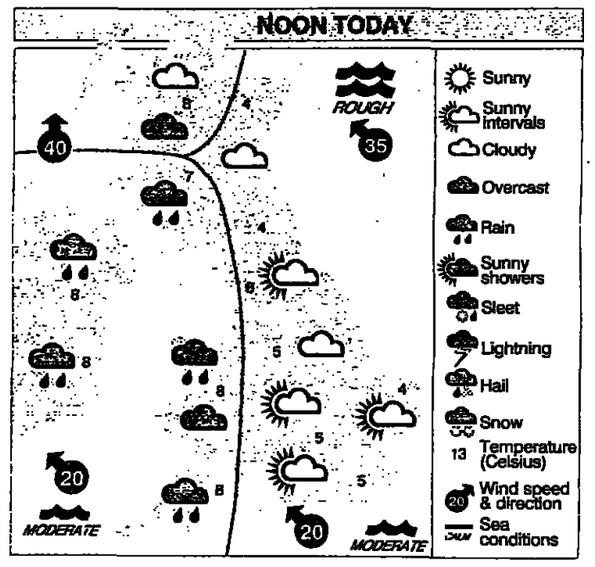
Algeciras	14	57	s	Cephalonia	1	34	c	Majorca	14	57	f
Alicante	16	61	f	Corfu	10	50	r	Malaga	17	63	s
Alderney	5	41	s	Dublin	7	45	f	Malta	13	55	f
Algiers	15	59	f	Dubrovnik	11	52	f	Malb'rne	17	63	f
Amsterdam	4	39	c	Faro	13	55	f	Mexico C	20	68	s
Athens	12	55	s	Florence	10	50	s	Miami	28	82	f
Bahrain	21	70	s	Frankfurt	4	39	f	Milan	12	54	s
Bangkok	30	86	s	Funchal	19	66	s	Montreal	-20	-4	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Geneva	5	41	s	Moscow	-20	-4	s
Barcelona	15	59	f	Gibraltar	13	55	s	Munich	2	36	c
Beirut	15	59	s	Helsinki	-18	0	s	Naples	10	50	f
Belgrade	4	39	r	Hong K	22	72	c	N Delhi	20	68	s
Berlin	1	34	sn	Innsbruck	1	34	sn	N York	-10	14	s
Bermuda	24	75	s	Istanbul	6	43	r	Nice	14	57	s
Biarritz	14	57	s	Jeddah	27	81	f	Oslo	-4	27	c
Bordeaux	9	48	r	Jo'burg	24	75	f	Paris	4	39	s
Brussels	3	37	f	L Palmas	19	66	s	Peking	0	32	sn
Bucharest	-1	30	s	Le Touquet	6	43	r	Perth	30	86	s
Budapest	1	34	f	Lisbon	15	59	s	Prague	1	34	f
Cairo	19	66	s	Locarno	10	50	s	Reykjavik	3	37	f
Cape Tn	24	75	s	L Angeles	14	57	f	Rhodes	14	57	f
Chicago	-6	21	c	Luxembg	2	36	f	Rio de J	41	106	f
Christchurch	18	64	s	Lyon	20	68	s	Riyadh	29	84	s
Cologne	3	37	f	Madrid	12	54	s	Rome	12	54	s
								Salzburg	1	34	sn
								S Frisco	13	55	s
								Santiago	35	95	s
								S Paulo	31	88	f
								Seoul	0	32	c
								Sing'por	32	90	f
								Stkholm	-9	16	sn
								Strasb'rg	-5	41	c
								Sydney	27	81	f
								Tangier	15	59	c
								Tel Aviv	16	61	s
								Tenerife	21	70	s
								Tokyo	9	48	s
								Toronto	-14	7	f
								Tunis	14	57	f
								Valencia	20	68	s
								Vancouver	2	36	r
								Venice	10	50	s
								Vienna	1	34	f
								Warsaw	-1	30	c
								Washton	-14	7	f
								Wellington	23	73	f
								Zurich	0	32	sn

X = not available



Changes to chart from noon: high S will drift SW, maintaining central pressure. Low M will drift NE and fill a little, as will low Z. Low I will fill

NOON TODAY



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PROFILE 23

Eastern's leading players in the power game



MELVYN MARCKUS 22

Our City Editor chronicles BAe's erratic history



SPORT 34-40

Skater driven in pursuit of American dream

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES
Page 35

THE TIMES

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12 1994

Britain's trade deficit widens sharply to £1.03bn

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S trade deficit with the rest of the world widened sharply in November to £1.035 billion from £703 million in October, largely reflecting a worryingly sharp fall in export volumes.

The Central Statistical Office said the deficit appeared, on balance, to be flattening, a less optimistic view than a month ago when statisticians believed the deficit was shrinking. The British export drive appears to be losing steam, not only to recession-bound continental Europe, but also to the rest of the world which includes some fast-growing economies.

Compounding the disappointing export performance is the fact that import volumes are holding up, despite the fact that the British economy is not growing particularly quickly. The worry for many economists is that, if the recovery were to gather momentum, more imports would flood in.

At the end of a difficult week for British financial markets, the trade data came as another blow although developments in the US helped to stabilise prices yesterday afternoon. At one point, the FT-SE 100 had plunged nearly 60 points but then recovered to close 28.1 points down at 3,378.9.

Sterling tumbled after the figures were released, hitting lows of DM2.56 and $1.46. Again, however, it regained some ground, closing at DM2.5688 and $1.4667. Gilts swung wildly in a very nervous session.

October's trade shortfall was originally reported at £578 million. The Central Statistical Office said that November saw the lowest total value of British exports to European Community countries of the whole of 1993. In addition, large revisions to most of last year's data on trade with Europe, known to be subject to enormous uncertainties since the new Intrastat statistics system was brought in, painted a worse picture of trade for most of last year.

These revisions added around £200 million to exports to Europe from January to October last year but also increased imports by £900 million. It has long been a suspicion in the City that the Intrastat system was under-recording imports from Europe and these revisions, to some extent, bear this out. In November, export volumes to the rest of the world fell 7 per cent, made up of a 10.5 per cent decline to non-EC countries and a 4 per cent fall in volumes to Europe. Import volumes fell by 1.5 per cent from the rest of the world and by 3 per cent from the EC.

Robert Lind, of UBS, noted that the deterioration in Britain's trade performance would have been even more dramatic if it were not for the fact that export prices are growing faster than import prices, leading to a sharp improvement in the terms of trade. In addition, he believes that Intrastat figures are still underestimating imports from the EC.

The CSO said that current trends suggest that, taking figures for trade with the whole world, export volumes are currently falling by around 0.5 per cent and imports are growing by around 0.5 per cent.

London financial markets received some useful help from economic developments in the US which hit the dollar. The US producer prices index rose only 0.2 per cent in January, far below the 0.4 per cent expected by economists. In addition, US retail sales fell by 0.5 per cent in January, the first monthly decline in ten months. The January fall was broadly based and included the first signs that sales of new cars may be faltering.

The combination of better than expected prices data and worse than expected sales data suggested that the next interest rate increase may be some way off.

Pensions provision of £20m at Lloyds

■ The most attractive areas of expansion are in private banking, insurance and investment products. Demand for credit from consumers is also increasing

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYDS Bank has made provisions of close to £20 million against the cost of possible compensation to pensions customers who transferred out of occupational schemes.

On Wednesday, its Lloyds Abbey Life subsidiary said it had made "sensible and prudent" provisions, ahead of a report by the Securities and Investments Board, for compensating pension transfer customers who had lost value in their pensions because of poor advice.

Lloyds Bank's 1993 accounts show that the increase in value of long-term assurance business fell from £245 million in 1992 to £225 million last year. Although the actual value of the business will have been affected by sales, the fall is due to the pensions provisions.

Peter Toeman, banking analyst at Hoare Govett, said new business volumes were down, so the £225 million would also take account of that, as well as released provisions and the new provisions.

The company has a 10 per cent share of the pension transfer market, having sold 52,900 pension transfers to customers of Lloyds Bank and through the Abbey Life direct sales force.

TSB has also made provisions, but refused to quantify them. National Westminster, Midland Life and Barclays withdrew from the pension transfer market last year, though NatWest was readmitted later. Provisions are also likely in their accounts, due in the next few weeks.

Lloyds yesterday unveiled a 29 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, to £1.03 billion. The dividend for the year increases by 20 per cent, to 22.1p.

Sir Robin Ibbs, the chairman, said the bank sought "further opportunities to participate in the restructuring of the industry, at home and abroad". Brian Pitman, the chief executive, said the most attractive areas of expansion were in private banking and insurance.

The bank had seen substantial demand for credit in recent months, largely from consumer loans and mortgages. There had been no upturn in demand from small businesses and that from large companies was falling.

Total bad debt provisions fell from £556 million to £503 million. In UK retail banking, specific provisions fell from £506 million to £389 million. Corporate banking and treasury provisions rose from £20 million to £45 million, against a handful of large loans. They included a £25 million transfer from the general provision.

Mr Pitman said growth in net interest would come from loan growth, "where there is substantial demand", recovery of past due interest, and the lower cost of funding non-performing loans thanks to lower interest rates.

Growth in other income would continue to come from investment products, insurance, private banking and capital markets.

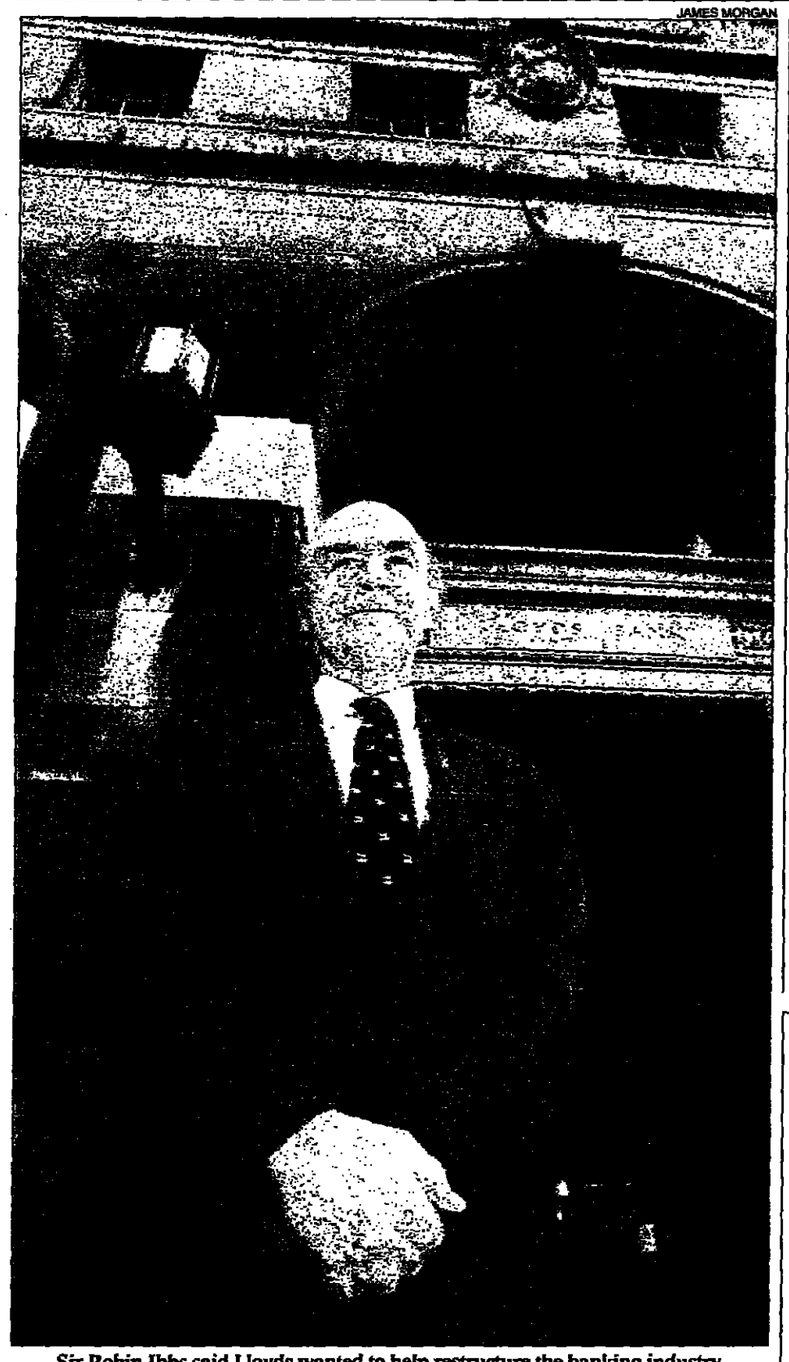
All the bank's main business areas increased profitability. UK retail banking bounced back from a £32 million loss to pre-tax profits of £74 million. Corporate banking and treasury saw pre-tax profits climb from £167 million to £230 million.

Lloyds Abbey Life, which reported its results separately on Wednesday, lifted profits from £298 million to £324 million. Private banking and financial services saw profits up from £70 million to £97 million, while international banking profits were up from £87 million to £153 million.

Lloyds reduced its exposure to Third World debt. A part cash, part uncollateralised bond settlement with Argentina benefited pre-tax profit by £57 million.

Tempus, page 23

JAMES MORGAN



Sir Robin Ibbs said Lloyds wanted to help restructure the banking industry

Generators face plant sell-off

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE two companies who dominate the power generation market in England and Wales have escaped a damaging reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Instead PowerGen and National Power are being asked to sell off a large piece of their plant, while their electricity price is being capped.

Under proposals by Professor Stephen Littlechild, Director-General of electricity supply, the two will have two years to sell 6000 MW of plant to outside buyers. They have also agreed that they will keep average prices in the free market for electricity as much as 7 per cent lower for the next two years.

The decision was welcomed by both PowerGen and National Power, but condemned by several other interested parties. Professor Littlechild said his decision would lead to a better deal for customers, although he accepted it would have few implications for domestic consumers. Instead the benefit both of increased competition once plant is sold and of a planned reduction of up to £500 million in the price customers pay over the next two years, would fall almost entirely on big industrial consumers.

ICI said the proposals were "too little and too late in coming". The Major Energy Users Council said the move was "most encouraging" but the Association of Independent Electricity Producers said the decision was "a blow to competition."

Tempus, page 23

BAe confirms Bauman to be chairman

BY GEORGE SIVELL, ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

BRITISH Aerospace last night confirmed yesterday's report in The Times that Bob Bauman, 62, the retiring chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceuticals group, is to become chairman of BAe in the wake of John Cahill's departure.

Mr Bauman will become non-executive chairman on a fee of £50,000 a year after Mr Cahill goes in April. Mr Bauman will also be granted options to acquire 120,000 BAe shares at 550p each, against last night's closing price of 543p, down 6p on the day.

Last night, BAe said Mr Cahill's only compensation would be options worth $4.7 million at last night's share price. The group said that after the restructuring since Mr Cahill joined, in May 1992, "it is an appropriate moment for him to relinquish the chairmanship".

Mr Bauman is an American citizen living in Britain and it will be necessary to change BAe's articles of association to permit him to be chairman. Shareholders will be asked to approve this move.

BAe said it believed Mr Bauman's regular contacts with governments around the world, his former chairmanship of Avco, the aerospace and defence business, and vice chairmanship of Textron, the aerospace group, made him "immensely valuable".

BAe is expected to dispose of its Space Systems business, the country's leading satellite maker, to Matra Marconi, within the next few days. Progress also continues on discussions with GEC to set up a joint defence subsidiary to rival Martin Marietta of America, the world number one defence group.

Talks between Lord Weinstock, the GEC managing director, and Mr Cahill, on setting up a joint defence subsidiary failed last year. The breakdown was blamed on premature publicity.

Matra Marconi is a joint venture between France's Matra Hachette and Marconi, part of GEC. The 1,000 workers at the Space Systems business at Filton, near Bristol and Stevenage, in Hertfordshire, were told more than a month ago of the possibility of a disposal.

Melvyn Marckus, page 22

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

WEEKEND MONEY

GAINING



As variable mortgage rates halt their downward path, home owners like the Messias family could gain with a fixed rate
Page 25

BENEFITING

The choice of affinity credit cards which benefit charity is increasing. And their rates can be lower
Page 26

CUTTING



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Page 27

WASTING

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6pm

LONDON CLOSING PRICES

MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 24, SHARE PRICES PAGE 33

Bob Bauman and the GEC factor

Knock, knock. Who's there?
Duke. Duke who?
Grand Old Duke.
Whaddya want?
I want to be chairman of BAe.
Why?
I want to march it down again.

What an amazing enterprise BAe is. Chairmen spin in and out of its ever revolving doors, boardroom coups take place in the dead of night, the Government uses it as a car park for the remnants of Britain's motor industry, sweeteners (more like sugar plantations) pass to and fro, lucrative salaries regularly give way to even more lucrative compensation payments and, as often as not, the company runs at a loss.

Even as I write, BAe's revolving doors are set to swing into motion yet again. It has been public knowledge, for some weeks, that John Cahill, who has held the post of executive chairman of BAe for all of 22 months, is about to bow out. Confirmation finally came yesterday evening. Enter, as *The Times* forecast yesterday, Bob Bauman, currently chief executive of SmithKline Beecham.

The spin doctors have been at work for weeks with tales told, and stories written, of how bad blood exists between Cahill, who hails from BTR, and chief executive Dick Evans, originally promoted by Sir Roland Smith (the Prof). Cahill enjoys a £540,000-a-year crust and equally enjoys a five-year service contract; five times the length which certain institutions deem necessary. Cahill also received sacks of share options following his arrival at BAe: so much so that he is to exit with a $4.7 million profit on them. Cahill, who has a home in Florida, works out of America, paying US taxes on his salary.

It would be fair to say, however, that there were precious few takers for the BAe chair in the autumn of 1991: witness the six-month caretaker stint by Sir Graham Day in the wake of the Prof's last whirl through the revolving doors. The Prof, it may be recalled, was pushed in the direction of his sword by a trio of non-executive directors: Ronnie Hampel (ICI), Sir James Blyth (Boots) and Day. The Prof was perceived to have marched the UK's principal manufacturing exporter down the hill with the controversial £150 million purchase of Rover followed by the decision to snap up Arlington Securities, a specialist in business parks, just before the property market went into free fall.

This culminated in BAe's £430 million crisis cash call, accompanied by dire profit warnings. The last straw, by all accounts, was the Prof's private tête-à-têtes with Sir Nigel Broackes, the game plan being the effective takeover of Trafalgar House, followed by the flotation of Trafalgar's leisure interests à la Cunard and the Ritz, along with the company's then chief executive Sir Eric



MELVYN MARCKUS

Parker. Trafalgar's directors said "no"; BAe's non-executive directors said goodbye. Roland Smith's salary was in the region of £313,000, of which some £300,000 related to consultancy fees — fees which proved ongoing until last May.

The Prof (who now graces the Court of the Bank of England) was a non-executive chief, Cahill an executive. Word has long had it that BAe's board — fond of ringing the changes — now favours a non-executive chairman (which indicates more rope for Evans, of Al Yamamah fame). Enter Bauman.

Bearing in mind that BAe's board is unerringly drawn towards high earners, Bauman, due to retire from SmithKline Beecham in April, certainly fits the bill. Bauman's package, including share options, at SB was estimated at around £2 million last year. When Bauman originally joined Beecham Group in 1986 he became the second highest paid UK executive — after fellow American Richard Giordano.

Before joining Beecham, Bauman was vice-chairman of Textron, the US aerospace combine, following a spell with General Foods. Bauman is credited with masterminding the highly successful SmithKline/-Beecham in the late Eighties: experience which should hold him in good stead as he attempts to guide BAe into inevitable consolidation in respect of its defence and aircraft operations.

The Cahill/Evans partnership may not have been a happy one but, that said, the duo have clearly marched BAe, if not to the top of the hill, then onto significantly higher ground. The contribution from Rowland Smith (along with his co-directors) was to turn a hi-tech corporation into a conglomerate. BAe has subsequently slashed costs (City speak for widespread redundancies), disposed of Ballast Nedam, its construction venture, and, finally, disposed of its 80 per cent stake in Rover to BMW in a deal which effectively releases £2 billion of cash and banking facilities.

Bauman's priority must be to plug the cash haemorrhage from BAe's civil aircraft operations: note the recent £250 million provision to cover lease liabilities in respect of its Prestwick-based turboprop division. This conceivably clears the decks for rationalisation with the likes of Fokker of the Netherlands. Cahill, alas, became indelibly associated with BAe's tortuous attempts to link its regional jet aircrafat business with Taiwan Aerospace - a deal which, at best, remains in limbo.

But what Bauman's arrival heralds is an era of crucial talks with GEC's Lord Weinstock regarding the long anticipated amalgam, presumably via a joint venture, of the two companies' defence interests. Weinstock looked long and hard at BAe during its 1991 crisis — which led to the following year's record-breaking loss of £1.2 billion — but showed little inclination to join a consortium, let alone mount a solo bid for a uniquely capital intensive conglomerate.

On the subject of a GEC/BAe defence amalgam, Evans has already proclaimed: "It is not if, it is a question of when." Talks, which broke down last July, have yet to be resumed. But they may be in the not too distant future.

TSB chief gets pay rise of 38%

PETER Ellwood, chief executive of TSB, enjoyed a 38 per cent pay rise last year, taking his pay, including bonus payments, to £516,819 (Patricia Tehan writes). The rise comes despite continued Government calls for pay restraint, and at a time when the bank is laying off staff. Mr Ellwood's pay included a bonus of £213,750.

A spokesman for TSB said: "The competition for high-calibre executives is fierce and one has to compete in that market place. More importantly than that, much of the chief executive's salary is connected to improvements in earnings per share." In the year to the end of October TSB's earnings per share improved from a loss of 1.7p to earnings of 12.7p.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman, was paid 1.1 per cent more at £274,070. From January his basic salary rises from £215,000 to £260,000.

O'Reilly opposed on Independent

THE two continental shareholders in Newspaper Publishing, which owns *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday*, are opposing the request by Tony O'Reilly, the company's new 24.99 per cent shareholder, for two seats on the board (Martin Waller writes).

The Italian and Spanish publishers of *La Repubblica* and *El Pais*, respectively, are against appointing new directors while the consortium bid launched just over a week ago is running. The two are consortium members, along with Mirror Group Newspapers. They have not ruled out a board place for Mr O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers, which publishes the *Irish Independent*, later.

The Irish group has paid EMAP £4.8 million for a two thirds stake in Capital Newspapers, which has 14 local papers in London.

Burford buys £100m slice of Ladbroke real estate

■ Ladbroke remains under pressure to sell property assets but the company has sent a message to the City that disposals at any price will not be considered

BY CARL MORTISHED

LADBROKE, the hotels and betting group, has begun carving up the £860 million property empire built up by Cyril Stein, its former chairman. A 15-property chunk of the portfolio is being sold to Burford, the real estate investment company, for £100 million to reduce Ladbroke's £1.3 billion of borrowings.

Analysts took comfort from a price slightly in excess of the £95.5 million book value of the assets. Ladbroke shares have been depressed by concern about the group's borrowings and doubts over the value of its properties, which include major buildings such as the London offices of Paribas, in Wigmore Street, and Smith New Court, in Farringdon. The company also has £250 million of real estate in the US.

The property sale follows disposal last month of the management contract for the Hong Kong Hilton hotel, giving Ladbroke an £82 million windfall profit. Liquidating the property portfolio is central to the strategy of John Jackson, Ladbroke's new chairman, who negotiated his predecessor's departure last month, and Peter George, chief executive.

Burford is funding the deal with a 3-for-5 rights issue at 92p to raise £100 million. The deal will double the size of the property group, which at the end of December had shareholders' funds of £116 million. Nick Leslau, chief executive, said that the issue would reduce Burford's gearing to 37 per cent, but he expects that to climb back up to 100 per cent, with the Ladbroke portfolio used as collateral for a debenture issue. He said: "We spent £130 million last year, primarily on institutional-type property, but, over the next three years, the growth will come from the secondary market."

Burford prospered last year, with net asset value per share rising by 49 per cent, to 72.3p, and pre-tax operating profits rising by 51 per cent, to £5.7 million. The company raised £42 million in June in a 3-for-5 rights issue, buying 11 properties from Provident Mutual.

Ladbroke is selling the Whyte & Mackay office building in Glasgow on 7 per cent yield, and City Plaza, Birmingham, an office and retail property on 8 per cent. Burford is also to buy the £16.5 million Falkirk Retail Park development. Rental income from the portfolio is £8.4 million. Ladbroke is guaranteeing rent on unlet premises to a value of £600,000 a year for five years.



Jackson: property sale

Tempus, page 23

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EASTERN ELECTRICITY: **James Smith and John Devaney**

Distributing profits from the current account

partners in power

Martin Waller profiles the successful team at the head of Britain's biggest regional electricity company

Running one of the old-style electricity monopolies was a nice life. The money may have been lousy, and it was galling to see executive payments in the private sector racing further and further ahead and out of reach. But there were the perks: the limos, the tickets to Twickers and, best of all, the power. The chairman, within his regional fiefdom, was the top of the pyramid, often after an entire working life with the business. He — don't be silly, it was always *he* — had no shareholders to worry about, and Whitehall was a long, long corridor away. This hierarchical, Civil Service structure was well insulated from the dethocratisations that had brought boardroom and factory floor closer in the outside world.

Even today, more than three years after privatisation, many chairmen are still referred to by staff in the formal "Yes, chairman, no, chairman, the chairman will see you now" — even by their fellow directors.

James Smith, chairman of Eastern Electricity, is one of the most senior names in the industry, and Eastern is the largest of the regional power distributors (the companies that bring electricity to the home, factory and office rather than generate it) with three million customers. So senior a figure is he that when the Government, in the run-up to privatisation, looked for one figure to represent the 12 companies in England and Wales and head the Chairmen's Steering Committee, he was the natural choice.

By contrast, his chief executive, John Devaney, is one of only two outsiders appointed to that role in the industry since privatisation. Electricity distributors should be the envy even of TV broadcasters for their government licence to print money. Viewers can switch off, and programmes may not be saleable to other broadcasters; but for the regional electricity companies (RECs), only broad demographic swings or regional economic variations can alter the basic profitability of the core distribution business, and these only marginally. The companies own the wires through which power flows from the stations to the consumers and take a cut on every watt. It is the equivalent of being paid a pound for every square metre of water flowing under Westminster Bridge.

The industry, which has powered profits ahead since 1990 on the back of cost-cutting that has reduced workforces by many thousands — Eastern itself has lost 2,000 — is now heading for uncertain times. There is a limit to how far costs can fall; meanwhile, the industry regulator will this summer publish his plans to change the complex formulae that govern just how much the companies can earn. That review could be a tough one, even though the industry optimists believe they can keep pace with whatever strictures are required by the Office of Electricity Regulation.

> "I found people wanting to get from A to B, but not quite knowing where B was"

"Right now it's still an easy world. It will get tougher," Devaney believes. He arrived, after a career in the American motor industry on either side of the Atlantic that culminated in Detroit, as something of an American corporate executive *déraciné*. Eighteen months later, the accent has blunted back to touches of his native Lancashire but a few conversational Americanisms remain.

"People found it difficult to appreciate the amount of change a business like Eastern has had to go through from a nationalised industry to out there in the world. I'm from a manufacturing background. I wondered if I was smart enough to get an understanding of a new industry, a new background." He arrived and immediately accelerated the cost-cutting, a fact he admits and is not ashamed of. "I found people willing to change, wanting to get from A to B but not quite knowing where B was."

At heart were what he at first calls "enapowerment issues", and then apologises for slipping into corporate-speak. For example, the switchboard operators at Eastern were given the power to settle petty disputes with customers with a swift and small cash payment, rather than waste time by referring the matter further up the pyramid. "When I arrived there was no hostility, just questioning. The job losses were not happening fast enough — I could see there were too many people. If a business feels it's overmanned, you get a lot of bad things happening. I didn't even have to work hard to get people to recognise there were a thousand too many people in this business."

As evidence, he says that over 12 months complaints to Offer, the last resort of the frustrated customer, have halved. "You don't get that sort of result if the people in the business are mad at you."

City sources say Devaney, a forceful personality, is making most of the running in a charm offensive that has sent the share price sharply ahead since last summer. "He's obviously a tough guy to work for, very demanding," says one. There was at first some surprise that Smith had been so willing to hand over the chief executive role to an outsider.

Eastern employed a head-hunter to find a new chief executive, insisting the search be undertaken internationally and not restricted to the industry. "The last thing I wanted was someone who knew a hell of a lot about the industry," says Smith candidly. "If you had brought someone from another REC his view would have been similar to mine. Being a utility man wasn't essential." Instead he was looking for someone who was an engineer with a mathematical bent, essential for an understanding of the "pool", the free market in electricity that is governed by arcane rules and formulae impenetrable to the outsider.

"What I found about John when he was first on the scene was that his thinking processes were very much the same as mine. That might be the fact that we're both mechanical engineers by training — there was an affinity we had in the way we approached problems."

Mechanical engineers are apparently different from their electrical or civil cousins, or, indeed, those useful people who arrive to mend the boiler. Smith describes them as coming from "a rational base, not hyper-analytical — it's a cause-and-effect type of thinking".

But despite their apparent meeting of mechanical minds, Devaney is far from being Smith's natural successor, not least because the latter fights shy of naming the date when he might be standing down. Devaney himself does not necessarily see himself ending his career at Eastern. "There comes a time in business life when you say, I've done enough fighting in the trenches, I'd like to be a field-marshal," he says. "But not necessarily in the same brigade. There's probably room for another change in my life before I'm 60."

Although he could comfortably pass for a man in his 50s, Smith will be 67 in November, two years past the normal retirement age at the company and 20 years older than his chief executive. "I think it's important whoever you are that you go when you are still performing," he says. He is now moving into non-executive mode, and might get there in six to nine months, he thinks.

"The benefit of having Jim around isn't being told what to do this morning," says Devaney. "It's a sounding board, from someone who's spent 40 years in the industry. As Jim and I have a relationship that works and we understand our roles in life, there doesn't seem to be any good reason to say, why not retire early? It isn't broken so why tinker with it?"

If the City has one criticism of Smith, it is of an apparent intellectual arrogance bred of his long experience in the industry. If teenage scribblers have one character fault, aside from deplorable dress sense, it is the tendency on limited acquaintance to tell someone who has done a job well for decades how to do it better. Smith, who has a low boiling point at the best of times, once memorably upbraided an analyst who criticised the company. "Building power stations isn't like getting into the centre of the Stock Exchange floor and yelling, you know," he said.

He describes the division of executive roles as "Janus-like, the Roman/Greek concept, with John running the company while my look is outside." Janus was a Roman god, surely, with no connection to Greece? "They got the idea from the Greeks," he says, the gaze becoming more steely. According to my *New Larousse Encyclopedia of Mythology*, not so. But it seemed unwise to press the point.



ALBAN DONOHOE

Eastern promise: James Smith, left, and John Devaney have cut costs and believe they can withstand pressure from the regulator

Company insolvencies decline by 24%

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANY insolvencies fell in the final quarter of last year, Government figures showed yesterday, providing further evidence of gathering economic recovery.

The figures from the Department of Trade and Industry will comfort ministers before a key week of Government economic data, including figures on output, prices, unemployment, earnings and retail sales. Seasonally adjusted, the number of company insolvencies fell by 9 per cent in the final quarter of 1993, from 5,119 to 4,634, the fifth consecutive quarterly decline. The figure is 24 per cent below the 6,095 insolvencies in the same period a year ago.

The final quarterly figure takes company insolvencies to 20,825 for the year. Though this represents 2.3 per cent of active companies, it is a 15 per cent fall on the 1992 total.

The figures — published on the DTI's behalf by the British Chambers of Commerce — also include totals for individual insolvencies. The number of individuals becoming insolvent in the final quarter of last year fell by 7 per cent from the previous quarter, from 9,175 to 8,513, which is 13 per cent fewer than in the same period a year ago. Total personal insolvencies were 36,645 in 1993, down 0.4 per cent on 1992.

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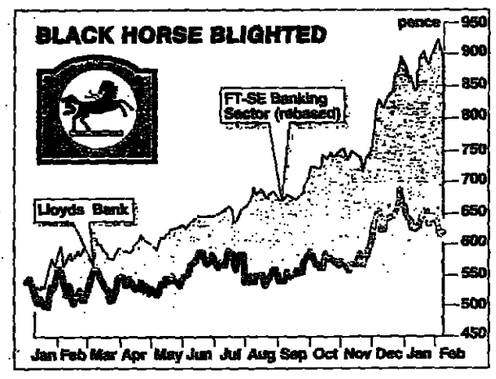
Low-voltage Littlechild is saving shocks for summer

THE cynical view of yesterday's sharp decline in the share prices of the regional distributors after Professor Littlechild failed to refer the generators to the MMC is that, having failed to come down hard on the latter, he is storing up some serious trouble for the former.

The professor will have his chance to swing at the RECs during the distribution review on which he is due to rule this summer. He must be tempted, in view of the political pressures, to take a tough line, but he knows that it will not be easy to deliver lower prices to domestic consumers, not least because only a quarter of household bills come from distribution.

However, the threat of a tough distribution review is real enough, not least because the Government owns no residual stake in the RECs. The Treasury would have been less than happy if the regulatory cosh had fallen too hard on the generators since it would have ruined plans to sell the remaining 40 per cent government stake in them later this year, a sale that is vital to Government funding plans. It is tempting to think that Professor Littlechild felt that his hands were tied in the generator review by such affairs of state.

Although Professor Littlechild's conclusions yesterday were largely in line with informed speculation, the inevitable relief sent the two generators' share prices ahead again after Thursday's weakness. The implications for the companies of Professor Littlechild's stance are threefold. Although they must spend two years selling off the necessary plant or face a renewed risk of an MMC referral, their respective managements can at least now focus on more important matters, such as overseas expansion, without being bothered by regulatory trivia. The cash released from the disposals of the 6,000 MW capacity will enable National Power and PowerGen to accelerate their diversification into non-regulated businesses.



They can now hope for an earlier sale of the Government's remaining 40 per cent. While Professor Littlechild's extended deliberations have ruined the chances of a June float, October remains open for the £4 billion sale.

Finally, the effects on profits are going to be minimal and are already built into the share prices. Internal industry figures suggest that half the £500 million cut in pool prices will fall on the nuclear generators, while £150 million will come off the two quoted companies' revenues, split £60 million from PowerGen and £90 million from National Power.

Lloyds

FEW would argue that Lloyds is the best managed of the English clearing banks, but its shares have been under a cloud for more than a year while the market has chased more exciting recovery prospects such as Barclays and Standard Chartered. The nagging feeling in the market is that Lloyds ran out of avenues for growth when it withdrew its bid for Midland in 1992 and that it is stagnating, no matter how robust its balance sheet looks.

The group's balance sheet would seem to support that view. Although assets rose by 14 per cent, to £72 billion, most of the growth came from margin interbank lending — a poor substitute for real business. The bank claims that there is renewed demand for personal lending, and it cannot happen too soon, given that domestic net interest income fell 7 per cent last year.

While the growth opportunities for Lloyds are hazy, it would be foolish to write the bank off completely. The bank is ruling out any capital distribution or share buyback in spite of its high risk/asset ratios, which suggests that it plans to do something better with the money. Either acquisitions are back on the agenda, or a robust capital base will be vital to future competition. Certainly, high capital ratios will allow Lloyds to lead any potential price war in financial services, rather than follow.

In the meantime, Lloyds is, as always, looking after its shareholders. Brian Pitman, the chief executive, practically invented the phrase "shareholder value". Strong real dividend growth looks assured, given a cover of more than two times and the prospect for a further decline in bad-debt provisions. The 20 per cent increase in the payout for 1993 puts the shares on a 4.5 per cent yield, more than enough to keep investors happy while the bank plots its next move.

Ladbroke

LADBROKE has not wasted any time in taking the knife to its former chairman's cherished property portfolio. In doing so, the new management has proved that it can strike sensible deals at sensible prices. Property values have been a major source of the anxiety about Ladbroke's financial performance, and yesterday's deal suggests that the written-down value of £860 million placed on the portfolio last June is realistic.

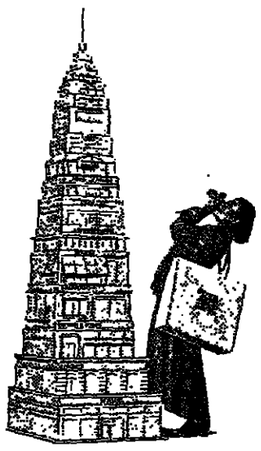
Three weeks ahead of its full-year figures, the disposal was a signal to a market anxious for reassurance. The sale of a mixed bag of investment assets on an 8.4 per cent yield should be proof enough that Ladbroke is not in fire-sale mode. A more discursive analysis of the performance of Ladbroke's businesses in March would provide further reassurance.

Good deals provide something for both buyers and sellers, and Burford will also gain from the Ladbroke sale. The company is still a minor player in the investment market, but has shown an uncanny ability in getting its timing right. Yesterday's purchase was no bargain, but Burford can refinance the assets and cover the cost with rents, leaving it with more firepower with which to pursue management-intensive and profitable deals in higher-yielding secondary properties.

Fund managers' deals scrutinised

THE US Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating personal share dealings by managers at 30 mutual fund companies, amid rising industry and political concern over potential conflicts of interest (Philip Robinson writes). The investigation is the most widespread ever conducted into the private deals of those who manage mutual funds, the US equivalent of unit trusts, which have grown into a $2,000 billion industry. SEC officials say the enquiry could lead to legislation; a ban on personal share dealing by fund managers has not been ruled out.

The SEC wants to see last year's personal dealing records of all portfolio managers at the 30 companies. It also wants the names of companies on which the fund managers served as directors.



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US figures help shares fight back against early losses

THE equity market began testing the important 3,350 level for signs of support as share prices continued to lose ground at the end of the two week trading account.

A futures-related sell-off saw the FT-SE 100 index fall almost 60 points in early trading following Wall Street overnight. But it rallied to close off the bottom helped by some better than expected US inflation figures to finish 28.1 down at 3,378.9, a fall on the account of 68.5. Turnover topped a billion shares but traders described selling pressure as minimal; most business was between market-makers struggling to square positions.

The short-term outlook for the market appears confused. Edmond Warner, at Kleinwort Benson, has been cautious for some time but now believes it is time to come off the bear tack. "The market has retraced a third of its bull run since the Budget in November, and thats enough of a correction in anyone's book".

Super bull Nick Knight, at Nomura, is sticking with his year-end correction of 4,000 but is cautious short-term. Ian Harnett, at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, says the equity market is looking expensive relative to the index-linked bond market, or real interest rates. "Because of the surge during December, it seems that there is no support around the 3,350 level. The next support level is 3,200. The market may re-

STOCK MARKET

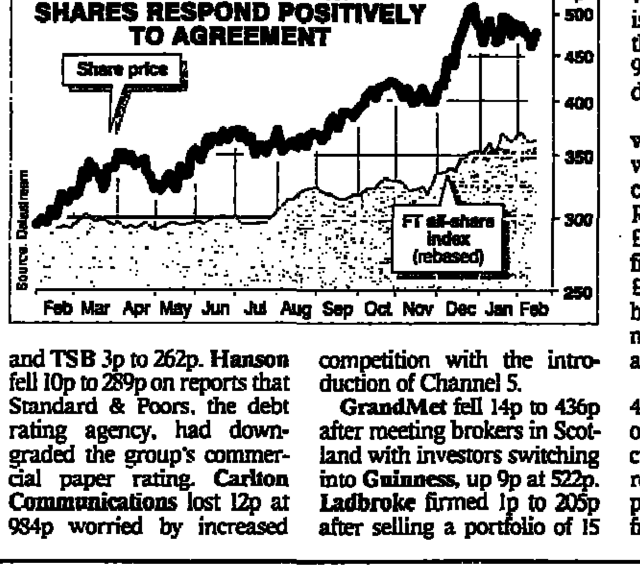
main sick for another 150 points," says Mr Harnett.

The power generators raced ahead on the news that they are not to be referred to the monopolies commission after agreeing to sell certain power stations and cut prices by around 7 per cent.

National Power, up 14½p at 475½p, said the price cuts would have only a modest adverse impact while **PowerGen**, 16p dearer at 541p, re-assured shareholders that dividend policy would not be affected by the agreement with the regulator. Brokers like Kleinwort Benson were big buyers and remain positive long-term.

Lloyds Bank kicked off the banking dividend season with interim figures of £1.03 billion (£801 million). Shareholders were rewarded with a 20 per cent increase in payout. The group attributed the rise to sharply higher Treasury profits and an increased contribution from problem country debt. The shares finished 1p lighter at 614p.

Encouraged by Lloyds' performance and the fact it goes ex-dividend on Monday, investors began switching into **Abbey National** 16p up at 516p. There were also gains for **Bank of Scotland** 7p to 224p, **Barclays** 2p to 582p, **NatWest** 6p to 552p, **Royal Bank of Scotland** 6p to 478p



and **TSB** 3p to 262p. **Hanson** fell 10p to 289p on reports that Standard & Poors, the debt rating agency, had downgraded the group's commercial paper rating. **Carlton Communications** lost 12p at 984p worried by increased competition with the introduction of Channel 5.

GrandMet fell 14p to 436p after meeting brokers in Scotland with investors switching into **Guinness**, up 9p at 522p. **Ladbroke** firmed 1p to 205p after selling a portfolio of 15 properties to Burford in a deal worth £100 million. Burford is financing the deal with a three-for-five rights issue at 92p and raised its 1993 dividend by 31 per cent to 1.4p.

Forte resisted the downward pull, rising 4p to 257p with stockbroker NatWest Securities leading the buyers. Rival **Savoy 'A'** touched £10.98 in a thin market before finishing unchanged at £10.75. The speculators are hoping Forte will eventually make a full bid for the Savoy after losing the race for Ciga.

Enterprise Oil fell 7p to 442p as Kleinwort Benson's oil team warned of a possible cut in the dividend after revising its 1994 average oil price forecast downwards from $17 to $14.

□ **Gilt edged** experienced volatile conditions with the March series of the Long Gilt trading between extremes of £114¾ and £116 5/32 before closing £7/32 better at £115 31/32 as 115,000 contracts were completed. Prices in the cash market ended off the best after the Bank of England confirmed the next auction will be pitched in between the 2000-2004 range. Treasury 9 per cent 2012 firmed £⅛ to £112 3/8, while in shorts Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 was £1/16 better at £114 3/16.

□ **NEW YORK** — Shares declined broadly in morning trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was 20.82 points down, at 3,874.52.

MICHAEL CLARK

MARKETS AT A GLANCE

THE POUND
US $ .... 1.4667 (+0.0050)
German mark .... 2.5688 (+0.0051)
Exchange index .... 81.0 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET
FT-SE 100 .... 3378.9 (-28.1)
Dow Jones .... 3874.52 (-20.82)*
Nikkei Avg .... Closed

INTEREST RATES
London Bank Base 5¼%
3-month Interbank 5 5/16-5 3/16%
US Federal Funds 3⅛%*
3-month Treas Bills 3.27-3.25%*
Long Bond 6.43%*

CURRENCIES

New York:	London:
£ $ 1.4652*	£ $ 1.4652
$ DM 1.7530*	£ DM 2.5685
$ SWfr 1.4765*	£ SWfr 2.1647
$ FFr 5.9510*	£ FFr 8.7270
$ Yen 107.65*	£ Yen 157.73
£ SDR 1.0614	£ ECU 1.3199

London Forex market close

GOLD
London Fixing ($)
AM 381.10 .... PM 381.85
Close 380.40-380.90
New York:
Comex 380.25-380.75*

OIL
Brent Crude .... $13.75 per bbl (Apr)

RETAIL PRICES
RPI 141.9 Dec (1.9%) Jan 1987=100
* Denotes midday trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	1.98
Austria Sch	18.98	17.48
Belgium Fr	55.98	51.58
Canada $	2.072	1.912
Cyprus Cyp£	0.798	0.748
Denmark Kr	10.61	9.81
Finland Mkk	8.99	8.19
France Fr	9.15	8.45
Germany Dm	2.71	2.50
Greece Dr	390.50	365.50
Hong Kong $	12.00	11.00
Ireland Pt	1.09	1.01
Italy Lira	2570.00	2415.00
Japan Yen	173.50	156.50
Malta	0.617	0.562
Netherlds Gld	3.018	2.788
Norway Kr	11.67	10.87
Portugal Esc	269.00	250.50
S Africa Rd	5.75	4.85
Spain Pta	215.50	201.50
Sweden Kr	12.40	11.60
Switzerland Fr	2.30	2.12
Turkey Lira	27363.0	25863.0
USA $	1.562	1.432

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Pensioners bond starts with £75m

Elderly people invested a total of £75 million in National Savings' new Pensioners' Guaranteed Income Bond for the ten days it was on offer last month.

Overall, National Savings accounts made a net contribution to government funding of £408 million last month. Premium bonds brought in a record net £72 million as people bought bonds to qualify for the new £1 million prize draw starting in April. The highest contribution came from income bonds, which attracted a net £102 million.

Stepping down

David Newbigging is to step down as non-executive chairman and director of Rentokil Group, the environmental and property services group. Mr Newbigging, 60, and chairman for the last seven years, will retire at the annual meeting in May. He will be succeeded by Henry King, chairman of Denton Hall, the City law firm. Mr King has been a non-executive director of Rentokil since 1985.

Armour boost

Armour Trust, the automotive parts and confectionery group, boosted taxable interim profits by 10 per cent to £916,000 (£830,000) for the six months to October 31, 1993, aided by a 29 per cent increase in sales at Armour Automotive Group. Confectionery profits fell 10 per cent, but third quarter sales in both divisions are ahead of last year. The interim rises to 0.38p (0.3465p).

Baldwin soars

Baldwin, the caravans-to-tours-operator, doubled full-year taxable profits in the year ended October 31, 1993, to £2.82 million (£1.33 million). A 1.9p final dividend makes a 3.5p total (3p).

Pentos rebuked for lack of openness on source of profits

By Susan Gilchrist

PENTOS, the troubled Dillons to Athena retail group, has received a rap on the knuckles from the Financial Reporting Review Panel.

The panel criticised the company's accounting treatment of reverse premiums on its shop leases, the payments made by landlords to attract key anchor tenants. It felt that the level of disclosure of the contribution made by these payments to profits in 1992 was inadequate.

Sir Kit McMahon, Pentos's chairman, and Bill McGrath, the chief executive, who both joined the company last year after the departure of Terry Maher, its founder, have decided to adopt a more open accounting approach. The group revealed that the 1993 results would benefit from £3.2 million of reverse premiums and that 1992 profits were boosted by £6.3 million of similar payments.

The scale of the reverse premiums surprised analysts. Sean Eddie, retail analyst at NatWest Securities, said: "Everyone knew the figure was substantial but even people who have been bearish on the company didn't think it was quite this much. It tells you that the company has not been making much money from its retail chains for a long time."

Pentos also confirmed the sale of 53 loss-making Ryman Computer Stores as part of its strategy to reduce debt. The stores are being sold for £100,000 to Cellular Communications, which operates the Peoples Phone chain. Ryman Computer Stores made estimated losses of £700,000 last year and saw a net cash outflow of £1.6 million. Mr McGrath said the chain could not be restored to profit without substantial investment and management resources. The sale will incur a £3.9 million exceptional charge. Pentos also plans to dispose of about 20 poorly located Athena outlets.



Sir Kit McMahon has detailed landlords' payments

MAID float on line to raise £20m

By Philip Pangalos

MAID, the business information supplier, is likely to raise up to £20 million of new money, capitalising the group at about £100 million when it is floated on the Stock Exchange next month. The proceeds will be used to finance future development.

An upbeat trading statement accompanied the company's pathfinder prospectus for the placing of shares with institutional investors.

MAID provides a computer database of business information directly to a personal computer via a local telephone call in more than 1,100 cities.

Dan Wagner, chief executive, who started the company in 1985 as "one bloke sitting at home", will retain his 25 per cent shareholding, making him a paper millionaire at 30. The company reported an 86 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £603,000 in 1993, on turnover ahead 64 per cent. Hoare Govett Corporate Finance is the broker.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Abbey Ntl .... 516p (+16p)
Dawson .... 144p (+10p)

FALLS:
Lloyds Abbey .... 439p (-10p)
Legal & General .... 499p (-10p)
General Accident .... 659p (-11p)
MAM .... 723p (-21p)
Johnson Fry .... 385p (-23p)
Cater Allen .... 640p (-13p)
Kleinwort Benson .... 659p (-22p)
SG Warburg .... 935p (-25p)
ICI .... 787p (-17p)
Glaxo .... 639p (-12p)
MEPC .... 512p (-10p)
Powell Duffryn .... 660p (-13p)
Zeneca .... 762p (-14p)
Church .... 463p (-15p)
GUS .... 574p (-13p)
Micro Focus .... 990p (-23p)
Telemetrix .... 144p (-19p)

Closing Prices Page 33

WALL STREET

	Feb 11 midday	Feb 10 close
AMP Inc	62	62
AMR Corp	65	66
Abbott Labs	28	28
Aetna Life	62	62
Ahmanson (HF)	17	17
Air Prod & Chem	48	49
Albertson's	26	26
Alcan Alumnm	22	24
Alco Standard	55	55
Allied Signal	79	78
Alum Co of Am	78	79
Amax Gold Inc	6	6
Amerada Hess	46	46
Amer Brands	34	34
Amer Cyanamid	47	47
Amer El Power	33	33
Amer Express	30	30
Amer Genl Corp	26	26
Amer Home Pr	61	61
Amer Intl	89	89
Amer Stores	45	45
Amer T & T	54	54
Ameritech	40	40
Amoco	53	53
Anheuser-Busch	48	48
Apple Computer	36	36
Archer Daniels	26	26
Arkla	8	8
Armco	6	6
Armstrng Wrld	52	52
Asarco	24	24
Ashland Oil	39	39
Atl Richfield	109	110
Auto Data Pro	52	52
Avery Dennison	29	29
Avon Products	54	54
Baker Hughes	19	19
Baltim Gas & El	23	23
Banc One	32	33
BankAmerica	42	42
Bank of NY	52	53
Bankers Tr NY	82	82
Barnett Banks	40	40
Bausch & Lomb	51	51
Baxter Intl	23	24
Bectn Dickinsn	37	37
Bell Atlantic	54	54
BellSouth	56	56
Black & Decker	19	19
Block (H&R)	45	45
Boeing	43	43
Boise Cascade	26	26
Borden Inc	14	15
Bristol Myrs Sq	56	56
Browning Ferris	28	28
Brunswick	19	19
Burlington Nthn	62	63
CBS	311	309
CNA Financial	77	78
CPC Intl	47	47
CSX	88	88
Campbell Soup	38	37
Can Pacific	17	17
Cptl Cities ABC	678	681
Cptl Holdings	32	32
Carolina Pwr	27	28
Caterpillar	105	106
Central & SW	27	27
Champion Intl	32	32
Chase Manhat	33	33
Chemical Bk	36	37
Chevron Corp	89	91
Chrysler	58	59
Chubb Corp	76	76
Cigna Corp	66	66
Citicorp	41	41
Clorox	51	51
Coastal Corp	32	32
Coca Cola	41	40
Colgate-Palmolive	60	60
Columbia Gas	27	25
Commonw Ed	26	26
Compaq Comp	90	89
Comp Ass Intl	37	37
Conagra	26	26
Cons Edison	29	29
Cons Nat Gas	44	44
Cons Rail	62	62
Cooper Inds	39	39
Corning Inc	30	30
Crown Cork	38	38
Dana Corp	57	59
Dayton Hudson	65	65
Deere	78	79
Delta Air Lines	51	52
Deluxe Corp	35	35
Detroit Edison	28	28
Digital Equip	29	29
Dillard Dept St	33	34
Disney (Walt)	45	45
Dominion Res	41	41
Donelley (RR)	30	30
Dover Corp	59	60
Dow Chemical	63	64
Dow Jones	39	39
Dresser	22	22
Duke Power	39	39
Dun & Brdstreet	61	62
Du Pont	53	54
Eastman Kodak	42	42
Eaton Corp	59	60
Emerson Elec	65	65
Engelhard Corp	23	23
Enron Corp	32	32
Ethyl Corp	18	18
Exxon	66	65
FMC Corp	49	49
FPL Group	34	34
Federal Express	76	77
Fed Nat Mtge	85	84
First Chicago	45	46
First Interstate	64	64
First Union Rlty	9	9
Fleet Finl Grp	34	33
Fluor Corp	46	46
Ford Motor	64	66
GTE Corp	32	32
Gannett	53	54
Gap Inc Del	40	40
Gen Dynamics	93	93
Gen Electric	106	106
Gen Mills	58	57
Gen Motors	61	62
Gen Reinsurance	107	107
Gen Signal	35	35
Genuine Parts	36	37
Georgia Pac	73	74
Gillette	59	59
Glaxo ADR	18	18
Goodrich (BF)	40	41
Goodyear Tire	46	47
Grace (WR)	45	46
Grt Atl Pac Tea	24	24
Great Wstn Fin	16	17
Halliburton	32	32
Harcourt General	36	35
Heinz (HJ)	33	33
Hercules	112	113
Hershey Foods	48	48
Hewlett Packard	83	85
Hilton Hotels	67	69
Home Depot	38	39
Homestake Mng	21	21
Honeywell	32	32
Household Intl	34	35
Houston Inds	42	43
Humana	20	20
ITT Corp	95	97
Illinois Tool	42	42
INCO	26	26
Ingersoll Rand	38	38
Inland Steel	34	35
Intel Corp	62	63
IBM	52	52
Intl Flav & Fr	37	37
Intl Paper	76	76
James River Va	19	19
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	41	41
K Mart	18	19
Kellogg	51	50
Kerr-McGee	46	46
Kimberly-Clark	56	56
Knight-Ridder	59	55
Lilly (Eli)	56	57
Limited Inc	17	17
LIN Brdcstng	113	114
Lincoln Nat	38	39
Litton	68	69
Liz Claiborne	20	20
Lockheed Corp	66	65
Louisiana Pac	43	43
MCI Commun	26	26
Marriott Int	30	29
Marsh & McLnn	82	82
Masco Corp	37	37
May Dept St	38	39
Maytag Corp	17	17
McCaw Cellular	52	51
McDonalds	60	60
McDonnell D	115	115
McGraw Hill	69	69
Mead Corp	46	46
Medtronic	84	85
Mellon Bk	53	53
Melville Corp	39	39
Merck Inc	34	34
Merrill Lynch	41	40
Minnesota Mine	104	104
Mobil Corp	80	80
Monsanto	79	79
Morgan (JP)	68	68
Motorola Inc	98	99
Natl Medical	15	15
Natl Semi	18	19
Natl Service Ind	27	27
Navistar Int	24	24
NBD Bancorp	29	29
NY Times A	27	26
Newmont Mng	52	52
Niag Mohawk	18	18
Nike B	49	50
NL Industries	8	8
Nordstrom	34	34
Norfolk Sthrn	69	69
Nthn State Pwr	41	41
Norwest Corp	25	25
Nynex Corp	37	38
Occidental Pet	18	18
Ohio Edison	20	20
Oracle Systems	31	32
Oryx Energy Co	18	18
Owens Corning	43	42
PNC Financial	28	28
PPG Industries	79	80
Paccar Inc	57	58
Pacificorp	17	17
Pac Enterprises	22	22
Pac Gas & Elec	31	31
Pac Telesis	54	54
Pall Corp	17	17
Panhandle East	24	24
Paramnt Comm	76	76
Parker Hannifin	36	36
Penney (JC)	51	52
Pennzoil	54	54
Pepsico	38	38
Pfizer	58	59
Phelps Dodge	54	55
Philadel Elec	29	29
Philip Morris	57	57
Phillips Pet	28	28
Pitney Bowes	45	44
Polaroid	32	31
PriceCostco	17	17
Procter & Gmbl	58	57
Pub Serv E & G	30	30
Quaker Oats	63	63
Ralston Purina	42	42
Raychem Corp	37	37
Raytheon	66	66
Reebok Intl	32	33
Reynolds Metals	52	52
Roadway Srvcs	72	72
Rockwell Intl	41	42
Rohm & Haas	56	57
Royal Dutch	108	107
Rubbermaid	30	30
Safeco Corp	56	56
St Paul's Cos	81	80
Salomon Inc	49	48
Santa Fe Pac	23	23
Sara Lee Corp	21	21
Stecorp	18	19
Schering Plough	60	60
Schlumberger	57	57
Scott Paper	44	44
Seagram	28	28
Sears Roebuck	47	48
Shell Trans	64	64
Sherwin Wlms	34	34
Skyline Corp	20	20
Snap-On-Tools	41	42
Southern Co	40	40
Sthwestern Bell	37	37
Sprint Corp	36	37
Stanley Works	44	43
Sun Company	30	30
Sun Microsys	24	25
Suntrust	44	44
Supervalu	38	38
Syntex Corp	14	13
Sysco Corp	27	27
TRW Inc	72	73
Tandem Comp	13	13
Tandy Corp	46	44
Telecom Corp	3	3
Teledyne	22	22
Temple Inland	49	50
Tenneco	57	57
Texaco	66	66
Texas Inst	71	73
Texas Utilities	37	37
Textron	58	58
Time Warner	38	38
Times-Mirror	34	34
Timken	37	37
Torchmark	46	46
Toys R Us	35	35
Transamerica	51	52
Travelers	40	40
Tribune	56	56
Tyco Labs	52	52
UAL Corp	141	143
UST Inc	28	28
USX Marathon	17	17
Unilever NV	116	116
Union Camp	48	48
Union Carbide	24	25
Union Pacific	62	61
Unisys Corp	15	15
USAIR Group	12	13
USF&G Corp	14	15
US Life	40	39
US West	41	41
United Tech	64	64
Unocal Corp	29	28
Upjohn	28	28
VF Corp	47	46
WMX Tech	24	24
Wal-Mart Stores	26	26
Warner-Lambert	63	64
Wells Fargo	129	129
Westinghouse El	14	14
Weyerhaeuser	46	47
Whirlpool	67	67
Whitman	15	15
Winn Dixie	48	48
Woolworth	24	24
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	44	44
Xerox	96	95

RECENT ISSUES

Alpha Airports (140)	173	+1
Baring Emrg Euro	71	-¼
Baring Emrg Eur Wts	38	-1
Chiroscience (150)	151	...
Coda (235)	264	-4
Computerised Fin (90)	149	-6
Energy Capital	58	...
Energy Capital Wts	28	...
Friends Prov Ethical (60)	60	...
Friends Prov Uts (120)	124	-1
Friends Prov Zero Pf (60)	61½	-½
K'wort Euro Pt (50)	42½	-1
K'wort Euro Pt Wts	41½	-½
Pantheon Wts	83	...
Rossmont (10)	12	...
Silmma (120)	141	-1
Taiwan Inv (100)	94½	+½
Taiwan Inv Wts	46	+1
Thornton Pan Euro Wts	13½	...
Thornton Zero Div Pf	51	-½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Anglo Irish n/p (48)	19	...
Beckenham Grp n/p (25)	4	...
Berisford n/p (120)	112	...
Carlisle n/p (11)	17½	-1
Spring Ram n/p (53)	20½	-2½
Stanley Leisure n/p (275)	38	...
Utility Cable n/p (10)	17½	+½
Worthington n/p (51)	11	...

FT-SE VOLUMES

ASDA Gp	6,700	Cadbury	1,700	MEPC	2,800	Scot Power	2,900
Abbey Natl	6,700	Caradon	1,500	Marks Spr	4,800	Sears	2,600
Allid-Lyons	1,500	Carlton Cms	1,200	NFC	1,300	Svrn Trent	888
Anglian W	1,200	Coats Vyla	1,700	NatWst Bk	11,000	Shell Trans	7,900
Argyll Gp	3,400	Cm Union	950	Nat Power	21,000	Siebe	2,000
Anjo Wiggn	1,100	Courtaulds	452	Nth Wst W	1,900	SmKl Bch	3,100
AB Foods	93	Enterpr Oil	965	Nthrn Fds	1,300	Smith Nph	3,600
BAA	1,500	Forte	9,500	P & O	2,400	Southern Elec	549
BAT Inds	5,400	GRE	1,500	Pearson	1,500	Std Chartd	1,000
BOC	970	GUS	1,300	PowerGen	8,600	Sun Allnce	1,400
BP	16,000	Gen Acc	1,400	Prudential	2,800	TI Gp	1,400
BTR	4,100	Gen Elec	5,000	RMC	999	TSB	7,200
BT	17,000	Glaxo	8,900	RTZ	4,000	Tesco	4,300
Bk of Scot	5,900	Granada	2,900	Rank Org	1,400	Thames W	3,000
Barclays	4,500	Grand Met	9,500	Reckitt Col	1,200	Thrn EMI	1,200
Bass	3,000	Guinness	4,300	Redland	2,600	Tomkins	2,800
Blue Circle	2,100	HSBC	6,900	Reed Intl	1,200	Unilever	1,500
Boots	1,400	Hanson	15,000	Rentokil	1,400	Utd Bisc	2,000
Bowater	1,500	ICI	999	Reuters	1,200	Vodafone	2,100
Brit Aero	1,900	Inchcape	3,600	Rolls Royce	4,500	Warburg (SG)	652
Brit Airwys	4,000	Kingfisher	712	Ryl Ins	2,100	Wellcome	2,500
Brit Gas	7,400	Ladbroke	6,000	Ryl Bk Scot	3,100	Whitbread	714
Brit Steel	15,000	Land Secs	3,300	Sainsbury	5,400	Wllms Hld	562
Burmah Cast	557	Legal & Gn	918	Schroders	16	Wolseley	486
Cable Wire	11,000	Lloyds Bk	15,000	Scot & New	1,400	Zeneca	1,800

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 3874.52 (-20.82)
S&P Composite .... 467.68 (-1.25)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Av'ge .... Closed

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... Closed

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 434.37 (-2.95)

Sydney: AO .... 2241.4 (+7.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 2090.61 (-28.35)

FT 30 share: .... 2564.5 (-24.1)

Brussels:
General .... 7680.48 (-74.67)

Paris: CAC-40 .... 2275.09 (-21.68)

Zurich: SKA Gen .... 704.60 (-11.60)

London:
FT A All-Share .... 1701.55 (-14.44)
FT Non Financials .... 1858.11 (-16.92)
FT Gold Mines .... 208.8 (-6.0)
FT Fixed Interest .... 128.30 (-0.06)
FT Govt Secs .... 105.92 (-0.26)
Bargains 48073
SEAQ Volume 1001.4m
USM (Datastrm) .... 167.51 (-0.47)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
February 7	February 18	May 12	May 23

Calls on 11/2/94: Amstrad, Allied Irish, Burton, Cementone, Dev Secs, Jury Hotels, N Hay, Merchant Retail, Molynx, NSM, Porter Chad, Sleepy Kids, Standard Chart, Titaghur, Triton Europe, Utility Cable, York TV Wts. **Puts:** Allied Irish, Amstrad, Burton, Jury Hotels, N Hay, Merchant Retail, NSM. **Puts & Calls:** Business Tech.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Mar 94	3385.0	3391.0	3338.0	3371.0	30119
Previous open interest: 74167	Jun 94	3360.5	3395.0	3360.5	3385.5	249
Three Month Sterling	Mar 94	94.78	94.79	94.76	94.78	12583
Previous open interest: 432546	Jun 94	94.91	94.91	94.86	94.91	10722
	Sep 94	94.86	94.87	94.82	94.86	3658
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 94	96.35	96.36	96.34	96.36	363
Previous open interest: 13350	Jun 94	96.04	96.06	96.03	96.06	159
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 94	94.31	94.32	94.29	94.31	14260
Previous open interest: 952721	Jun 94	94.73	94.76	94.71	94.74	22804
Long Gilt	Mar 94	115-22	116-05	114-24	115-31	131879
Previous open interest: 156279	Jun 94	114-28	115-11	114-20	115-09	503
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 94	114.49	114.70	114.49	114.70	618
	Jun 94	113.36	113.40	113.35	113.54	142
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 94	99.14	99.32	98.86	99.23	149658
Previous open interest: 202047	Jun 94	99.05	99.14	98.80	99.12	3842
German Gov Bd Bobl	Mar 94	102.26	102.38	102.19	102.35	1143
Previous open interest: 10055	Jun 94					0
Three month ECU	Mar 94	93.80	93.80	93.76	93.78	393
Previous open interest: 38532	Jun 94	94.31	94.31	94.28	94.29	628
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 94	95.87	95.91	95.83	95.90	6294
Previous open interest: 64614	Jun 94	96.17	96.18	96.14	96.18	2237
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 94	117.85	118.02	117.36	117.61	64907
Previous open interest: 90299	Jun 94	118.12	118.13	117.65	117.87	1023

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 81.0 (day's range 80.7-81.0).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 11	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.8716-2.8816	2.8781-2.8816	par-⅛ds	⅛pr-⅛ds
Brussels	52.81-52.99	52.89-52.99	3-7ds	15-21ds
Copenhagen	9.9960-10.0330	10.0050-10.0200	⅝-1⅞ds	2⅜-4ds
Dublin	1.0425-1.0460	1.0426-1.0456	3-7ds	19-24ds
Frankfurt	2.5613-2.5702	2.5668-2.5702	⅛-⅛ds	⅜-⅛ds
Lisbon	257.82-259.13	258.50-259.13	86-93ds	283-304ds
Madrid	208.26-208.98	208.69-208.98	57-64ds	173-193ds
Milan	2471.30-2480.10	2471.30-2475.30	5-7ds	18-21ds
Montreal	1.9591-1.9691	1.9662-1.9691	0.27-0.22pr	0.51-0.43pr
New York	1.4612-1.4657	1.4647-1.4657	0.22-0.21pr	0.62-0.59pr
Oslo	11.0670-11.1010	11.0820-11.0980	¾pr-par	1½pr-par
Paris	8.7040-8.7340	8.7200-8.7340	⅝-⅞ds	2⅛-2⅝ds
Stockholm	11.8290-11.8760	11.8290-11.8530	1½-2⅛ds	5½-6⅞ds
Tokyo	157.59-158.14	157.60-157.86	⅜-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Vienna	18.00-18.09	18.05-18.09	⅛-⅞ds	⅜-1⅛ds
Zurich	2.1589-2.1665	2.1632-2.1662	⅛-⅛pr	⅝-⅜pr

Source: Extel. Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.4620-1.4646
Australia dollar	2.0414-2.0443
Bahrain dinar	0.545-0.557
Brazil cruzeiro*	780.33-782.04
Cyprus pound	0.757-0.767
Finland marka	8.272-8.388
Greece drachma	365.75-372.75
Hong Kong dollar	11.3404-11.3496
India rupee	45.42-46.38
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4305-0.4405
Malaysia ringgit	4.5408-4.5469
Mexico peso	4.47-4.57
New Zealand dollar	2.5493-2.5533
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.4195-5.5455
Singapore dollar	2.3172-2.3217
S Africa rand (fin)	6.6909-6.7395
S Africa rand (com)	5.0533-5.0612
U A E dirham	5.308-5.432

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.3950-1.3960
Austria	12.32-12.33
Belgium (Com)	36.14-36.18
Canada	1.3429-1.3434
Denmark	6.8393-6.8413
France	5.9590-5.9610
Germany	1.7525-1.7535
Hong Kong	7.7520-7.7530
Ireland	1.4012-1.4027
Italy	1693.0-1694.0
Japan	107.95-108.05
Malaysia	2.7605-2.7625
Netherlands	1.9645-1.9655
Norway	7.5730-7.5760
Portugal	176.50-176.65
Singapore	1.5840-1.5860
Spain	142.65-142.80
Sweden	8.0907-8.1100
Switzerland	1.4760-1.4770

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5¼ Finance Hse 5½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 4¾ Low 3½ Week fixed: 4¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 4⅞; 3 mth 4⅞. Sell: 2 mth 4 13/16; 3 mth: 4 13/16.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5-4 15/16	4 15/16-4⅞	4 29/32-4⅞	4 29/32-4⅞	
Sterling Money Rates:	5⅛-5⅛	5 3/16-5⅛	5 3/16-5⅛	5 3/16-5⅛	5⅛-5 3/16
Interbank:	5⅛-5⅛	5 3/16-5⅛	5 3/16-5⅛	5 3/16-5⅛	5⅛-5 3/16
Overnight: open 4⅛, close 3.					
Local Authority Deps:	5⅛	n/a	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Sterling CDs:	5⅛-5 3/16	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5 3/16	5⅛-5 3/16	5⅛-5⅛
Dollar CDs:	3.33	n/a	3.45	3.66	3.98
Building Society CDs:	5⅛-5 3/16	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £920m allotted: £200m; Bids: £98.825% received: 94%; Last week: £98.77% received: 43%; Avge rate: £4.7106% last wk £4.9320%; Next week: £200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3⅛	3⅝-3½	3⅞-3¾	3⅛-2⅞
Deutschemark:	6⅛-6	6⅛-5 15/16	5 29/32-5 27/32	5⅝-5½	6⅛-5⅞
French Franc:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	6⅛-5⅞
Swiss Franc:	4⅛-4⅛	4⅛-4⅛	4⅛-4⅛	4⅛-4⅛	4⅛-3⅞
Yen:	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-1⅞

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $381.50-381.90 Close: $380.40-380.90 High: $381.50-381.90 Low: $379.50-380.00 Krugerrand: $379.00-382.00 (£258.50-260.50)

Sovereigns: Old $88.25-91.25 (£59.00-62.00) New $88.25-91.25 (£59.00-62.00)

Platinum: $390.00 (£267.10) **Silver:** $5.27 (£3.595) **Palladium:** $132.75 (£90.90)

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Allid Lyon	600	37	47	56	14	31	38
(*617)	650	15	23	33	43	61	67
Argyll	240	27	32	36	7	15	18
(*259)	260	16	21	26	15	25	28
ASDA	50	10	13	14	2	3	5
(*55)	60	4	7	9	6	8	10
Boots	500	54	63	70	5	16	19
(*542)	550	21	35	41	24	37	42
Br Airways	460	33	44	53	16	27	33
(*474)	500	13	25	35	37	50	55
BP	360	29	39	44	9	16	22
(*376)	390	13	23	29	25	32	37
Br Steel	140	11	16	19	7	12	14
(*142)	160	3	7	12	20	24	27
C & W	475	29	45	—	14	27	—
(*485)	500	18	32	41	29	41	47
CU	600	53	67	71	9	18	24
(*646)	650	21	38	43	32	41	49
ICI	750	53	66	75	22	36	48
(*786)	800	24	41	51	49	63	74
Kingfishr	600	60	72	81	11	25	35
(*642)	650	29	43	54	32	49	57
Land Sec	750	30	39	47	20	36	38
(*753)	800	9	19	26	52	67	66
M & S	420	21	28	35	14	23	26
(*423)	460	5	13	19	40	49	49
Nat West	550	29	38	46	29	41	45
(*553)	600	12	22	29	65	73	77
Sainsbury	360	24	33	38	17	29	33
(*360)	390	12	19	27	36	49	52
Shell	700	49	61	69	10	19	27
(*742)	750	15	33	41	35	43	52
Smkl Bch	390	33	45	54	14	24	31
(*408)	420	15	30	39	30	39	47
Storehse	220	16	23	28	7	13	16
(*227)	240	7	13	18	19	24	27
Trafalgar	115	10	16	—	9	14	—
(*116)	120	7	14	19	12	16	19
Unilever	1200	48	69	91	34	49	57
(*1217)	1250	22	46	65	64	77	85
Zeneca	750	34	51	64	31	46	56
(*761)	800	13	30	43	67	77	80
BAA	1000	67	84	102	17	33	41
(*1038)	1050	37	54	75	39	56	64
Thames W	550	27	37	43	18	33	37
(*555)	600	7	16	22	49	68	68
Glaxo	600	55	75	88	21	35	51
(*634)	650	29	50	63	47	61	77
HSBC	1000	70	105	137	72	98	114
(*1008)	1050	50	86	119	101	124	142
Reuter	2000	102	160	198	71	109	136
(*2034)	2050	76	135	172	97	134	160

Series		Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	23	36	44	4	13	18
(*438)	460	3	16	24	25	33	39
Ladbroke	200	9	18	23	4	16	21
(*204)	220	2	10	15	18	30	33
Utd Bisc	330	22	29	33	2	12	17
(*349)	360	3	12	19	16	31	36
BAT Ind	475	26	—	—	2	—	—
(*496)	500	9	26	35	11	33	44
BTR	360	21	30	36	3	15	18
(*378)	390	3	15	22	15	29	34
Br Aero	500	49	65	81	5	28	35
(*540)	550	13	40	58	25	52	61
Br Telecm	420	31	42	50	1	5	13
(*450)	460	4	16	24	14	22	32
Cadbury	493	21	28	—	3	19	—
(*509)	542	1	7	—	34	51	—
Guinness	500	26	41	52	4	22	31
(*522)	550	4	16	28	34	52	60
GEC	330	18	28	33	2	7	15
(*345)	360	3	11	17	17	23	31
Hanson	280	12	18	22	1	9	13
(*290)	300	2	9	15	11	19	24
LASMO	120	6	18	23	3	10	15
(*126)	130	4	12	18	9	16	21
Lucas	220	6	15	22	6	15	19
(*220)	240	1	7	14	22	28	32
Pilkingtn	180	15	24	30	2	6	13
(*195)	200	4	12	19	8	15	23
Prudential	330	12	19	25	4	16	21
(*337)	360	1	8	13	25	36	39
Redland	550	49	59	67	1	17	26
(*596)	600	12	28	39	14	42	51
Royal Ins	288	29	—	—	1	—	—
(*314)	317	8	—	—	9	—	—
Tesco	220	8	17	23	4	15	17
(*224)	240	2	8	15	18	27	30
Vodafone	600	31	56	72	5	23	38
(*623)	650	6	30	48	32	50	64
Williams	300	9	22	27	6	21	26
(*302)	420	1	8	15	29	42	45
R-Royce	176	9	—	—	3	—	—
(*179)	195	1	—	—	17	—	—
Eastrn Elc	650	33	50	67	4	16	34
(*677)	700	6	27	40	28	41	60

Series		Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat	500	24	33	44	19	27	32
(*512)	550	4	13	22	50	55	61
Amstrad	35	5	7	9	2	3	4
(*36)	40	3	5	7	4	6	7
Barclays	550	41	52	63	11	21	30
(*581)	600	14	27	38	37	47	56
Blue Circ	360	16	24	35	14	28	37
(*360)	390	6	13	23	35	48	56
Br Gas	330	15	21	26	8	17	21
(*335)	360	3	9	14	27	37	39
Dixons	220	13	22	28	9	16	23
(*220)	240	6	14	20	23	27	36
Forte	240	23	27	33	4	11	15
(*257)	260	11	16	24	12	22	26
Hillsdwn	160	17	19	24	3	8	11
(*172)	180	5	9	14	12	17	23
Lonrho	140	22	29	34	3	8	14
(*157)	160	9	18	24	11	17	24
Sears	110	13	15	19	2	4	6
(*119)	120	6	8	11	5	8	10
Thrn EMI	1050	55	82	99	17	31	53
(*1085)	1100	25	54	70	41	55	77
Tomkins	260	13	22	27	8	13	21
(*265)	280	5	13	18	21	25	32
TSB	260	12	19	25	11	17	23
(*262)	280	4	10	16	26	30	35
Wellcome	600	58	74	93	10	27	37
(*642)	650	27	47	67	31	51	63
Fisons	120	13	19	25	6	11	15
(*127)	130	8	14	20	11	17	21
Natl Pwr	460	27	39	48	5	19	28
(*475)	500	8	20	30	31	44	51
Scot Pwr	420	17	30	38	14	22	32
(*420)	460	4	13	21	41	47	56

FT-SE INDEX (*3377)

	3250	3300	3350	3400	3450	3500
Calls						
Feb	132	87	51	25	10	4
Mar	156	120	89	63	43	28
Apr	173	138	110	83	63	46
May	198	165	136	108	87	66
Jun	—	184	—	126	—	84
Puts						
Feb	6	13	36	51	89	136
Mar	36	50	70	94	123	190
Apr	54	69	90	114	143	176
May	72	89	109	132	160	190
Jun	—	102	—	144	—	202

February 11, 1994 Tot: 75466 Call: 36414 Put: 39052 FT-SE Call: 15475 Put: 24029
*Underlying security price.

COMMODITIES

GNI REPORT: Copper fell sharply, despite a large fall in the LME stock figures released early in the trading day. Part of the reason was a general feeling that the recent heavy purchases from the US would dry up for a while. However the funds also played their role, with large scale selling noted. Copper has lagged the rest of the complex in this corrective phase, so it's likely it would be the next in line.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	886-885	May	966-963
May	897-896	Jul	974-970
Jul	909-908	Sep	983-982
Sep	924-922	Dec	1000-990
Dec	940-939		
Mar	954-952	Volume: 14688	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1200-1199	Nov	1206-1200
May	1204-1203	Jan	1206-1200
Jul	1201-1200	Mar	1206-1200
Sep	1204-1202	Volume: 2213	

NO.7 PREMIUM RAW SUGAR (6.00pm)

		Oct	11.40-11.55
Spot: 250.10		Jan	11.15-11.80
Mar	11.20-11.30	Mar	10.90-12.05
May	11.70-11.90	May	10.80-12.30
Jul	11.95-12.02	Volume: 80	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	294.0-92.0
Spot: 306.0		Dec	292.9-89.1
Mar	311.0-08.1	Mar	292.5-89.5
May	306.0-04.6	May	295.5-91.1
Aug	306.0-04.1	Volume: 914	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 11

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	59.75	113.51	122.02
(+/-)	+5.67	+3.84	+0.09
Eng/Wales	69.75	112.97	121.72
(+/-)	+5.67	+3.01	-0.18
(%)	+15.7	-4.1	-9.1
Scotland:	n/a	115.85	125.49
(+/-)	n/a	-7.25	-3.35
(%)	n/a	-19.6	-44.2

LONDON MEAT FUTURES
Live Pig (p/kg)

	Open	Close		Open	Close
Aug	unq	..	Mar	unq	..
Sep	unq	..		Volume: 0	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)

Mar	98.90
May	99.20
Jun	99.25
Sep	89.50
Nov	90.40
Volume: 366	

BARLEY (close £/t)

Mar	102.90
May	103.05
Sep	92.90
Nov	93.40
Jan	95.25
Volume: 40	

HI-PRO SOYA (close £/t)

Aug	unq
Oct	...
Dec	...
Feb	...
Apr	...
Volume: 0	

POTATO

(£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	177.5
Apr	104.0	106.3
May	124.5	124.8
Volume: 168		

RUBBER
No 1 RSS Cif (p/k)
Mar 64.75-65.25

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm): Bad weather in the New York area forced an early end to the week's trading.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	13.70	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Mar)	13.65	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Apr)	13.75	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	14.70	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	14.80	-0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	Bid: 153 (n/c)	Offer: 154 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	144 (+1)	145 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Mar	146 (+1)	148 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Apr	145 (+1)	147 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	78 (n/c)	79 (+1)
Naphtha	137 (n/c)	139 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES
GNI Ltd
GAS OIL

Mar	144.00-44.25	Jun	142.25-42.75
Apr	143.00-43.25	Jul	144.00-44.25
May	142.00-42.25	Aug	146.25-46.75
		Vol: 15253	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	13.64-13.66	Jun	14.05-14.07
Apr	13.73-13.75	Jul	14.20-14.24
May	13.89-13.92	Vol: 22403	

UNLEADED GASOLINE

Feb	unq	May	155.50 SLR
Mar	...	Jun	unq
Apr	...	Vol: 0	

BIFFEX
GNI Ltd ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 94	1175	1170	1173
Apr 94	1231	1220	1219
Jul 94	1105	1105	1097
Oct 94	1250	1250	1250

Vol: 62 lots. Open int'st: 2241 Index 1156 -14

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE Rudolf Wolff
(Official) (Volume prev day)

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1620.0-1621.0	1640.0-1641.0	1052325
Lead ($/tonne)	478.00-479.00	491.00-492.00	122050
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	947.00-948.00	966.00-966.50	853750
Tin ($/tonne)	5360.0-5370.0	5415.0-5420.0	14950
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1245.0-1246.0	1265.5-1266.0	39990
Nickel ($/tonne)	5745.0-5746.0	5805.0-5810.0	1050350



CARD WARS 26

Cards compete to benefit charity

WEEKEND MONEY

PHONE BILLS 27

Special offers to cut costs



Rose Wild and **Sara McConnell** report on loan options for home owners as the base rate falls

Fixed-rate mortgages look good

Homeowners hoping for a fall in *mortgage rates after Tuesday's base rate cut were quickly disabused.* Building societies said the 0.25 of a percentage point cut was a "technical adjustment" and they wanted another quarter percentage point before thinking of moving.

Peter Robinson, managing director of Woolwich building society said: "It does not seem sensible to be further reducing our rates. Building societies have been losing money hand over fist to equities and granny bonds. We need to maintain savers' rates."

A handful of banks, who do not need to maintain the delicate balance between borrowers' and savers' rates, did respond. Citibank cut its variable rate by 0.2 per cent, from 7.60 to 7.40. TSB went down from 7.64 to 7.45 per cent.

But since the majority of lenders stayed put, the message seems to be that borrowers cannot expect the variable mortgage rate to follow the base rate automatically, at least while it is falling.

John Wriglesworth, analyst at UBS, the broker, said: "If the base rate were cut by another 0.25 per cent they might cut the borrowers' rate by 0.2 or 0.3 per cent but not more. *This is the bottom.*"

Ian Darby of John Charcol, the mortgage adviser, said: "We believe there is a variable rate floor of 6.99 that they won't go below, whatever the base rate does."

This puts the focus of competition for borrowers' accounts firmly on discounts and fixed rates. Many borrowers would currently be better off with a fixed rate. On a £50,000 endowment or pension mortgage at 7.75 per cent, the current variable rate, repayments are £274.48 per month. *The Bank of Ireland's one-year 3.75 per cent fixed rate would be £132.81, saving of £141.67 per month. On the five-year fixed rate of 6.75 per cent, the payments would be £239.06 per month, a saving of £35.42.*

The Halifax calculates that, even taking into account some of the fees lenders charge, a borrower with a £50,000 endowment loan changing from the current variable rate of 7.64 per cent to a five year fixed rate of 7.2 per cent with another lender would break even in the 29th month of the fixed-rate period. Thereafter, he or she would be £15.59 a month better off. Over five years, a borrower will save £485. This assumes that rates stay the same. It also assumes that borrowers have to pay a fee of £250 to reserve the money and £200 in legal fees to register a new lender's interest in the property.

Fees vary and borrowers must work out whether the cost of changing outweighs any savings. But many lenders are now abolishing or cutting fees for transferring to a fixed rate, paying valuation fees for borrowers wanting to switch as well as offering very low rates. *The cost of changing from a variable-rate mortgage to a fixed rate is falling dramatically as lenders fight to keep the borrowers they have managed to attract in a stagnant housing market.*

This week, the Cheltenham & Gloucester building society announced it had abolished application and valuation fees which have long deterred both its own borrowers and borrowers from other lenders changing to a fixed rate. Midland bank is extending its offer to pay some of the fees for customers transferring to one of the bank's fixed rates before February 28. This offer will save £300 on the transfer of an average mortgage of £40,000. Borrowers will still have to pay to reserve the funds.

But some borrowers wanting to change to a fixed rate could still pay a redemption fee to their previous lender. On top of this, solicitors', administration and revaluation fees could add up to £500, said Abbey National, the second-largest lender. This does not include a fee of £150-£300 to reserve the funds.

Some lenders insist that borrowers take out a life policy, or buildings and contents insurance. All these could outweigh the advantage of a lower interest rate.

Those already borrowing from a high street lender, including any building societies or banks, should find out what their existing lender is offering. If its fixed rates look competitive and it is not insisting on insurance policies as a condition, simply transferring to another type of loan is cheaper than going elsewhere.

They will normally pay only the fee for reserving the fixed-rate money and typically an administration fee of £50, although some, such as the Nationwide, have waived this.

Going to another lender for a fixed rate is more expensive. There could be redemption penalties from the previous lender. The new lender will want the property to be revalued because it is not familiar to them. This costs typically between £140 on a loan of £50,000, up to £190 for a loan of £100,000. Borrowers are also likely to incur solicitors' fees of about £200 and the usual fee for booking the funds.

One borrower who decided to save himself money by sticking to his existing lender was Stephen Messias. He and his wife Jane bought their three-bedroomed semi detached house in Middlesex just over a year ago.

With a first-time buyer discount of 1.75 per cent off the Abbey's variable rate, they were paying 6.2 per cent. *When the discount ends this month, they will be transferring to a two-year fixed rate of 6.39 per cent.* Mr Messias considered remortgaging with another lender but found this would be more expensive, especially as many of them insisted that he take out their insurance. In the end, after comparing the offerings of the main building societies and finding them similar, he opted to stay with Abbey. The only cost he incurred was a £250 reservation fee.



STEPHEN MARKESON

Keeping the Abbey Habit: Stephen and Jane Messias decided it was cheaper to remortgage with their current lender

Tax relief sums get harder

From April 1 mortgage tax relief (MIRAS) will be reduced from 25 to 20 per cent, meaning higher mortgage payments for most households. According to the Halifax Building Society, the largest lender, payments on any endowment mortgages over £30,000 at 7.64 per cent will increase by £9.55 per month.

Reader Stuart Vasey has calculated that unless the mortgage interest rate comes down by at least 1 percentage point by that time he would be better off repaying his whole mortgage than having the money invested elsewhere.

"I have just done my accounts and find that on my 7.75 per cent endowment mortgage, with 25 per cent tax relief, I am now paying £1,725 a year to borrow £29,600.

"With 20 per cent tax relief I should be paying £1,836 to borrow £29,600.

"I am investing the £29,600 in National Savings 40th Issue at 5.75 per cent over five years which gives me £1,702 interest, tax-free. Hence it is already costing me marginally more to borrow £29,600 even at 25 per cent tax relief rate."

He originally reduced his mortgage on the advice of an independent financial adviser: "Some time ago he said reduce the mortgage to £30,000, but keep it at that because of the tax relief. But now I'm really looking for a sizeable interest-rate cut to maintain the benefit."

"I'm now within ten years of when I would be planning to finish paying the mortgage," he adds, "and I would be reluctant to abandon it and venture out into the wild world. But that is the conservative reaction and not the entrepreneurial one. People have to keep a very close eye on these things."

Weekend Money is edited by Rose Wild

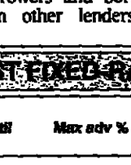
THIS WEEK'S BEST FIXED-RATE BUYS

Lender	Rate/APR	Until	Max adv %	Fee (£)	Redemp penalty	Comp ins
Bank of Ireland	3.75% (3.9%)	1.3.95	75	260	3mths/2yrs	none
	4.75% (5.1%)	1.3.96	75	260	3mths/4yrs	none
	6.75% (7.0%)	1.3.99	75	260	6mths	none
Birmingham Midshires	5.15% (5.3%)	1.4.96	90	295	3mths	none
	5.99% (6.2%)	1.4.98	60	295	3mths	none
Coventry	5.45% (5.7%)	1.1.97	70	225	6mths/4yrs	none
Lambeth	5.59% (6.3%)	1.1.97	75	250	3mths	yes
Cheltenham & Gloucester	5.5% (5.7%)	2 years	95	250	4mths	none
	6.99% (7.3%)	5 years	95	250	6mths	none
BNP	5.95% (7.5%)	3 years	95	295	3mths	none
	6.75% (7.5%)	5 years	85	295	6mths	none
Leeds	5.99% (6.1%)	1.4.97	80	195	3/2/1	none
Stroud & Swindon	6.69% (7.0%)	5 years	75	250	6mths/3yrs 3mths/2yrs	yes
Britannia	6.7% (7.1%)	1.3.99	70	275	3mths+350	yes
National Counties	6.75% (7.2%)	1.1.2000	90	275	6mths	yes
Woolwich	6.95% (7.3%)	5 years	95	295	6mths	none
RBS	7.65% (8.0%)	10 years	80	250	6mths	none

Source: John Charcol

Lip service to the bank code

COMMENT



LINDSAY COOK

Deputy Business Editor

A smugness of bankers is the collective noun that first came to mind when the revised code of banking practice was revealed this week. An apology of bankers seems more appropriate, now we have actually read it.

Customers are being given very little, although the bankers claim that they have already spent £50 million on improving the service they get, and now face a similar amount on phase two. Some customers may feel they are not getting value for money, as they are the ones who ultimately pay — even if the banks will eventually have to notify them in advance of charges.

Banks will have to tell their personal customers 14 days before they levy charges from December 1996. Their computers cannot manage it any earlier than the fifth anniversary of the first draft of the first edition of the code, when customers made it clear that the plundering would have to stop.

Customers also wanted to keep their financial affairs private, but banks have continued to send out insurance and investment mailings from branches to the high net worth individuals identified by branch staff.

Others have re-designed their application forms for new accounts and included as a condition of application a declaration that any information can be passed on to third parties. Such express consent is also a condition of many a prize draw organised by banks.

The banks will no doubt use their ingenuity to get round the new ban on making express consent a condition of obtaining a specific service, such as a mortgage or cheque account. They pay lip service to the code but are also aggrieved that their high street rivals can mail their customers, while they cannot.

The staff association at Barclays has already expressed concern that its members feel pressurised to sell investment products. Even though no direct commission is paid to branch staff, some vulnerable people might feel their jobs are on the line, as thousands of staff are made redundant, if they do not manage to make sales.

The way forward may not be via a Mark Three code produced by an industry consensus. If one bank were to put its customers first, it might find that it attracted business from other banks. Then customers might begin to believe that they are not the victims of a conspiracy of bankers.

Priced out

Pension providers have had a bad enough press of late, without companies trying to price small occupational schemes out of the market. A carpet and furniture retailer with 16 members in the scheme it provides for its staff has been told that the household name insurer administering the scheme is going to charge £3,000 a year. This works out at almost 20 per cent of the annual contributions to the scheme or, put another way, £187.50 extra per staff member a year. The scheme has been running for 20 years and the store's managing director feels that it is being penalised for providing a final salary pension for employees. He points out that a firm with 1,000 employees is surcharged just £3 per member a year, even though it is likely to cause the insurance company a great deal more work.

At a time when all employees are being reminded by politicians that the state pension will fall far short of their needs, it is unfortunate that employers are being discouraged from pension providing by punitive costs.

Of course, if the costs become so hefty that the company winds up its pension scheme, then the insurer may suggest that the 16 members transfer into its personal pension. The benefits may be lower for long-term employees and there will be no death in service or permanent health insurance, both of which are usually provided by occupational schemes. Nor would the employer be obliged to pay into personal pensions.

No doubt the charges will also be higher, but the individual employees will not know what a bad deal they are getting, because full disclosure of commission and other charges is not yet an industry requirement.



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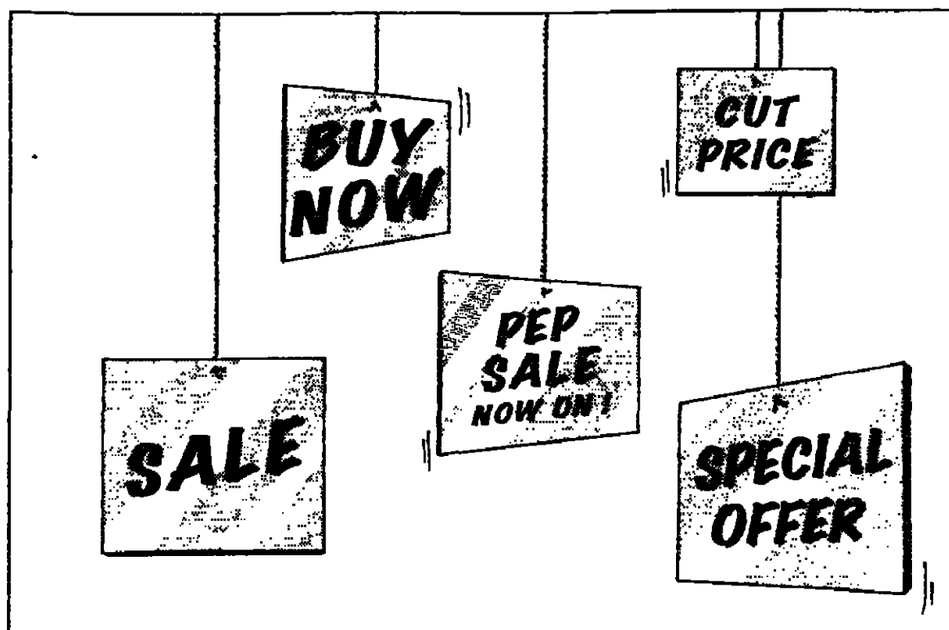
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Charity giving via credit cards is on the increase, **Nicola Cole** says

Affinity cards take the credit

MARK LEECH



Sportsmen such as Ryan Giggs may reap benefits of Visa links

Rates on traditional Visa and Mastercards have been coming under pressure. On the one side are the "co-branded" cards from Ford and GM, and on the other are the so-called "affinity" cards. Visa and Mastercards distributed through *non*-profitmaking organisations such as charities, political parties, professional associations and sports clubs.

Such organisations typically receive a donation from the issuers for every successful card application and/or a percentage from each transaction cardholders make. This is usually 20-25p per £100 spent per month plus, in some instances, part of the annual fee and a customer elects to donate the rebate.

Not only has the list of six main issuers grown within the past three months, so has the inventory of more than 400 recipient organisations. Meanwhile, some charge rates are falling.

Recent additions to the league include Cambridge University and Manchester United Football Club, both offering their own Visa cards through Beneficial Bank. The Cambridge card offers some of the most attractive terms available, featuring a 1.5 per cent interest rate, 19.5 per cent APR and no annual fee. Barclaycard's interest rate is currently 1.585 per month with an APR of 21.9 per cent and an annual fee of £10. Midland Access charges 1.595 per month with an APR of 22.3 per cent and an annual fee of £12.

Funds accruing to the university through the affinity card are "non-designated" and so available for any purpose — officially "for the benefit of the university and students as a whole".

Beneficial, UK subsidiary of the American Beneficial Corporation, already services a clutch of blue chip bodies. These include the Open University (a £2.5 million beneficiary since 1989), Oxford Brookes University, the British Medical Association, British Horse Society, Jaguar and Porsche.

An NOP consumer spending survey for Vauxhall Motors, published last month, found that more than 60 per cent of the 980 respondents considered high interest rates and annual fees "the most irritating" factors about bank credit cards. Peter Batchelor, vice-chairman of Vauxhall's commercial operations, believes people are being attracted to cards "that work for them and offer better value".

Affinity card APR rates are in the 19.5 to 26.8 per cent range, with monthly interest rates of 1.5 to 2 per cent. Monthly interest payable on the Bank of Scotland's NSPCC Visa, among the first affinity cards when it was introduced in October 1987, reduced to 1.57 per cent on February 1. The APR will reduce to 21.7 per cent, or 20.5 per cent if you spend more than £2,000 annually.

Monthly interest for Bank of Scotland's Affinity MasterCard, issued for 270 organisations, is being reduced to 1.63 per cent, the APR to 22.3 per cent (or 21.4 per cent on a £2,000-plus annual spend). The £7.50 fee will not apply where personal spending exceeds £2,000 a year.

The Royal Bank of Scotland cut the APR to 22 per cent last month on its £10-a-year MasterCard issued for organisations that include the Conservatives, and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Midland Bank charges no fees, but is maintaining monthly interest at 2 per cent and APR at 26.8 per cent on its National Trust Visa, Artscard and Care card MasterCards, the latter two covering 105 organisations extending from the Royal Opera House to Welsh National Opera, the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Terence Higgins Trust.

Of these, the National Trust card has proved "the most successful", the bank declares. It has netted the NT £953,000 in under four years and the funds put into restoration/conservation projects.

The Co-operative Bank's 1.7 per cent monthly interest rate and 22.4 per cent APR also stay unchanged on its cards covering such organisations as Amnesty International, Labour, the Liberal Democrats and two trade unions.

The affinity card income for the recipient organisations is not always significant against other sources but it is regular and obtained with relative ease once arranged. For affinity cardholders the benefits include cheque facilities, reduced subscription fees, shopping and insurance discounts, and extended borrowing — and a more comfortable way of constant giving.

"People are not having to dip into their pockets every time they see someone rattling a tin," says the Leeds Permanent, whose 232,000 cardholders paying 19.9 per cent APR and monthly interest of 1.42 per cent, have effectively raised almost £5 million for heart, cancer research and mental handicap charities since 1988.

From the issuers' standpoint, the affinity cards' appeal is "not just good causes", a Royal Bank of Scotland spokesman makes plain. "The reason banks go into them is as a way of getting into other banks' customer bases". Every card taken up means a fresh opportunity to sell the holder extra services and boost market share.



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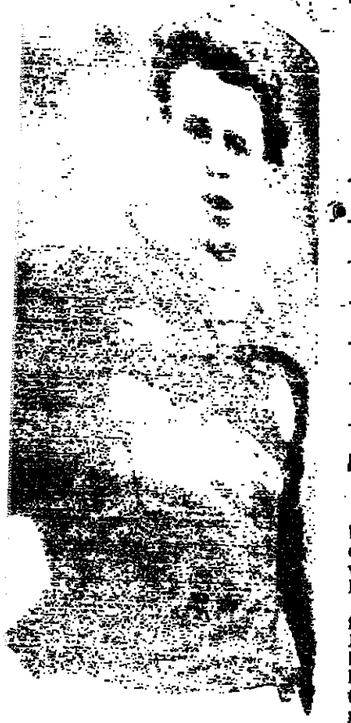
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Reversed charges

BT and Mercury are competing for customers with a barrage of price cuts and special offers, says Liz Dolan



STUART NICHOL

Parents of teenage children may benefit from subsciber Pin numbers to restrict calls

Telephone users are going through a purple patch. Daytime price cuts announced by British Telecom and Mercury Communications this week are the latest in a long line of special offers.

Existing money-saving offers include:

BT (Dial 150 for details)

☐ *Option 15*: For a £4 quarterly fee, subscribers whose quarterly call charges exceed £40 get a 10 per cent discount on the cost of every call.

☐ *BT Friends and Family*: For a one-off £4.99 fee, subscribers can nominate up to five phone numbers, one of which may be international. A 5 per cent discount is then made on the cost of all direct dial calls made to them.

☐ *Call Barring*: This is particularly useful for parents of teenage children or employers of homesick au pairs. For £7 a quarter, the subscriber is issued with a Pin number which may be used to restrict calls to national, local or even emergency numbers.

☐ BT will also put a block on 0898, 0891 and other expensive services, free of charge. Again useful for households where the young might run up enormous bills.

☐ A BT charge card can be adapted for use on specified numbers only. This is useful for offspring away from home. It saves reversed charge costs which, because they are operator-linked, can run to pounds per call. Restricting its use to specified numbers removes temptation to use the card to ring friends/bookies/0891 numbers.

☐ *Low users discount*: People who spend less than £10 a quarter get automatic discounts of up to 60 per cent. According to BT, 3 million people fall into this category. The discount is intended to help people with low incomes who rely on the telephone for emergencies.

☐ People who make more than £50-worth of calls in any quarter automatically get a 5 per cent rate discount on the cost of any subsequent calls. Over £250, the discount rises to 8 per cent.

☐ Arguments between flatmates might be reduced by requesting itemised bills. This is free to any subscriber on a modernised phone system. More honest, or less scatty, residents may find they save a fortune once phone numbers and call destinations are revealed.

☐ Visitors often feel they have to leave large sums by their host's phone after making calls. They can avoid this by dialling a special code beforehand. A recorded voice will then inform them of the exact length and cost of their call at the end of the conversation. This costs 5p per call.

Mercury

☐ Mercury guarantees that its charges will always be at least 20 per cent lower than BT's for evening and weekend calls, and 10 per cent lower for daytime and international calls. However, its customers are still advised to use BT for local calls.

☐ People who make less than £75-worth of calls a quarter will probably be better off with BT because of Mercury's £1.75 extra annual charge. Mercury users also have to buy special phones, costing from £12.99.

Specified charge card numbers remove the temptation to ring the bookies

☐ *Loyalty bonus*: Mercury customers whose bills exceed £60 a quarter get a 5 per cent discount on the whole amount. (BT, by contrast, operates tiered discounts.)

☐ *Yourcall*: A version of BT's Friends and Family. This one is free, whereas BT makes an initial charge. Otherwise, the terms are the same for both. Mercury says that more than half its customers would qualify for a discount on more than half their bills if they switch to this service.

☐ *Cost centres*: People who are sharing flats or houses can request individual bills. Each is given an individual Pin ("and keep it to yourself". Mercury advises) which they then key in each time they make a call.

☐ Almost half the 40,000 new subscribers who join Mercury each month are taking advantage of cheaper local rates offered by local cable television networks, thus circumventing BT altogether. However, this means sacrificing the inclusion of the household's telephone number in the local BT telephone directory.

Next month, both BT and Mercury will abolish their pre-lunchtime peak rates and bring in new all-day tariffs.

This means that the cost of calls made between 9am and 1pm will be about 25 per cent lower with both companies. BT calculates that the reduction will save the average domestic user about £1.20 a quarter, or knock 2.8 per cent off the telephone bill. Weekend rates have been frozen indefinitely at 10p per three minutes anywhere in the country.

Living to regret a policy switch

Sara McConnell on a conundrum that could cost a policyholder dear

A Crown Life policyholder could lose more than £70,000 after inadvertently authorising the company to change the policy so that it would not pay out until he was 85. When David Mindell reached the age of 65 last October he expected the proceeds of a life assurance policy he had taken out with Crown Life 20 years before, in 1974.

It was not until he wrote to Crown that he discovered he had inadvertently signed a document authorising Crown to change the policy so that it would not pay out until he was 85. Crown acknowledged this week that the document detailing the changes and signed by Mr Mindell did not specify that the new policy only paid out at 85. Mr Mindell now faces the choice of paying an extra 20 years' premiums or surrendering his policy now. If he surrenders, he will get £16,360 including bonuses. If he continues paying until he is 85, Crown estimates that his policy will be worth £94,282 including bonuses although this is not guaranteed.

In 1973, Mr Mindell took out a 20-year endowment with Crown Life, paying £745.10 annually for a guaranteed sum of £12,800, with £12,800 of accidental death benefit. A year later, he wanted to use the policy to cover a mortgage. The guaranteed sum was increased to £25,000, with £25,000 of accidental death benefit.

The cost of the increased guaranteed sum would have more than tripled the annual premiums. To keep the premium at the same level, the policy was changed from an endowment, with a fixed term of 20 years, to a whole of life policy in which premiums continued to be paid until 85, spreading the cost of the policy over 40 years instead of 20. The new policy was described in documentation signed by Mr Mindell as an ordinary life policy "participating in profits" but there was no mention of the term of the policy.

The only document signed by Mr Mindell was one headed "Health Statement A". This indicates that the policy has been changed, but does not state the term. The form also contained medical questions. Mr Mindell said: "I cannot recall exactly what was said when the policy was changed, but I am sure that I would have noticed if someone had said premiums would continue until I was 85. I would never have accepted that". Mr Mindell's solicitor, Hilary Maurice, similarly had no recollection that the change involved paying 20 years' more premiums.

Crown acknowledged that Health Statement A made no mention of 85 on the health statement, but said the term was spelt out in the accompanying policy document. Mr Mindell had also had the option to shorten the policy term after five years, in return for a larger premium.

A Crown spokesman said: "Our agents are professionals. They would have explained the policy".



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THE TIMES



SAVE & PROSPER

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*Micropal Emerging Market Fund Monitor USA, January 1994.

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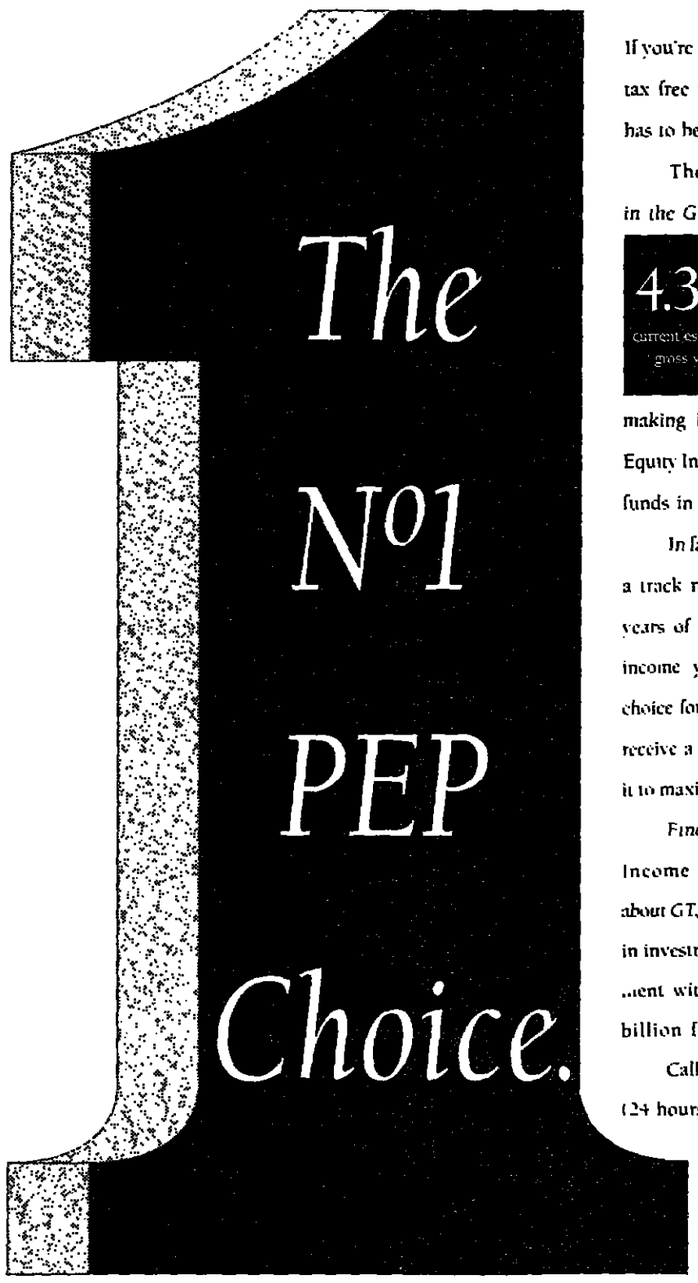
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*Source Micropal offer to offer gross income reinvested, 1.1.93-3.1.94. Five year performance 113%. Past performance is not a guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. PEP legislation can change at any time, and the value of tax concessions will depend on individual circumstances. GT Client Services Ltd is the PEP Plan Manager. The GT Income Fund is managed by GT (UK) Managers Ltd, a member of IMRO and LAUTRO.

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* Based on Exeter High Income Unit Trust's quoted yield as at 7 February 1994.

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Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of this investment and the income from it may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. Also deduction of charges and expenses means you may not get back the amount you invested. Tax benefits detailed are those currently applicable and will vary from one investor to another and may change in the future. Issued by Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited a member of IMRO. TEXT-94

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The UK's 'wasted' £12 billion

Sara McConnell says people are losing out on millions every year in benefits and investments



Down the drain: Mintel says £12 billion a year is lost in wasted tax allowances, unclaimed benefits and poor investments

Britons are wasting about £12 billion a year because they are paying too much tax, not claiming the benefits that they are entitled to, leaving their money sitting on deposit earning a low rate of interest or not claiming lump sums earned from insurance policies and premium bonds.

A survey that has been carried out by Mintel for IFA Promotion, which promotes independent financial advice, calculates that more than £5 billion is paid each year in *unnecessary tax.*

Married couples, in particular, are failing to make maximum use of the married couple's tax allowance, which can now be used by either the husband or the wife.

The allowance should be used by whoever is the higher taxpayer of the two partners to make the most of it. But four million couples are not doing this and are wasting £1.4 billion annually, Mintel estimates.

A further £1.2 billion is paid unnecessarily in tax by 15 *million taxpayers with building* society or bank savings who do not use a tax exempt special savings account (Tessa).

Tessas pay interest gross as long as the account is kept open for five years. Tax at 25 per cent is deducted at source from building society and bank interest so non- taxpayers are paying tax unnecessarily if they do not register to obtain their interest paid gross.

There are 5.5 million non-taxpayers who have not yet registered to obtain their interest paid gross despite continuing campaigns by the Inland Revenue to get them to do so. Many of the 3.25 million people who only pay tax at the lower rate of 20 per cent have not claimed back the extra 5 per cent that is automatically deducted from their interest.

Similarly, 9.9 million unit trust and shareholders are not making use of their £9,000 annual personal equity plan allowance, thereby wasting £700 million.

Income and capital gains from personal equity plans are tax-free but tax at 25 per cent is automatically deducted from unit trust and share dividends. An extra 15 per cent is collected from higher-rate taxpayers through their tax return, as it is on interest on building society and bank deposits.

Bad tax planning results in nearly £1 billion being paid unnecessarily in inheritance tax and capital gains tax.

Another 2.9 million people over the age of 30 in full-time employment could benefit to the tune of £300 million by contracting out of the state earnings related pension and obtaining a 1 per cent government rebate.

Many people are adding to this waste by not claiming the state benefits to which they are entitled. A total of £2 billion in family credit, housing benefit and income support goes unclaimed every year. Alongside this is another £1.7 billion of "buried treasure" in the form of unclaimed premium bond prizes (£13 million waiting), matured life assurance policies (£100 million), forgotten unit trust investments (£250 million) three years' worth of unclaimed income tax (£600 million) and investments in stocks and shares whose owners cannot be traced (£750 million).

Billions of pounds are also lost every year because money is not invested for maximum return or used to best effect says Mintel.

An estimated £3 billion a year is lost because people have left money in accounts that are earning low rates of interest, have not shopped around for insurance, or have lost track of pensions languishing in the funds of former employers. This total includes £500 million a year lost through unnecessary borrowing.

IFA Promotion has produced a free booklet called *Money Detector*, which sets out ways in which people can "locate their undiscovered wealth". The booklet is available on 0483 461461.

BRIEFINGS

The John Lewis Partnership was the first of the retailers to announce a cut in the APR on its store card after the Bank of England's decision on Tuesday to reduce the base rate.

The group, which has 22 department stores across Britain, will cut the APR of its store card from 19.5 to 18.0 from March 1, the first reduction since October 1992. An APR of 18.0 is equivalent to 1.39 per cent per month on an Option account card and a 9.25 per cent annual flat rate on equal monthly instalment credit.

*Cheques to cover second in*stalment payments of BT3 shares must be received by Thursday February 24 to allow them to clear before the March 1 deadline. The second instalment is 140p a share, except for those qualifying for the instalment discount who pay 130p a share on the first 1,000 shares bought in the public offer and held for the full qualifying period. Those who do not pay by March 1 lose their right to the shares, as well as to dividends and incentives.

☐ Parents are being offered a school-fee funding scheme allowing them to take out an extra mortgage on their home then draw down money up to four times a year for fees and extras. The scheme is called Special Reserve and was devised by the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) with Citibank Mortgage and Claremont Savile, the independent financial adviser.

☐ Save & Prosper will halve its initial plan charge on investments of £4,000 or more in its Managed Portfolio Pep until the 1993-1994 tax year ends in April from 1.5 per cent to 0.75 per cent.

Where the money goes

Mintel highlights 11 areas where benefits and investments are being wasted:

☐ About £58 million of old one pound notes, which are no longer legal tender, are still in circulation.

☐ Approximately £143 million could be saved if half of all the households in the UK prepaid one fuel bill in advance of the 8 per cent VAT charge in April.

☐ £212 million could be earned if a third of all inheritance money was more actively invested.

☐ Shopping around for buildings and contents and motor insurance could save £150 million a year.

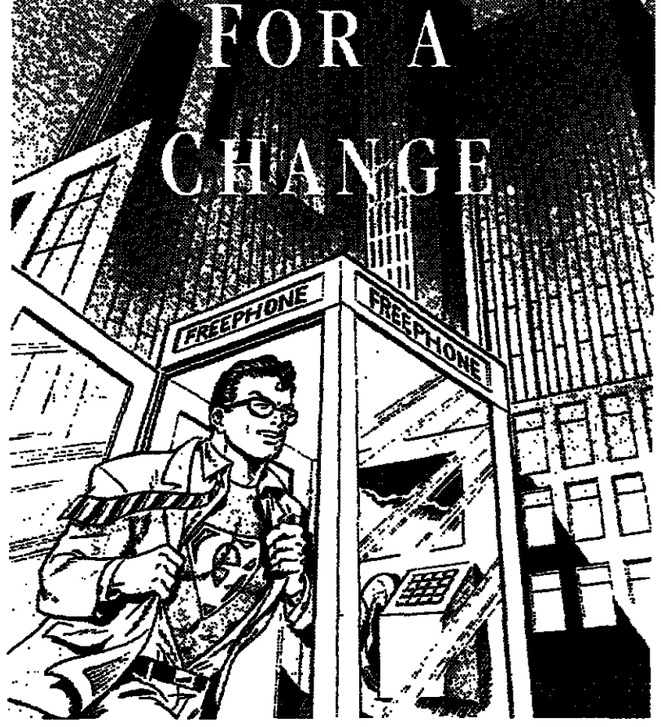
☐ Mintel calculates that 1 per cent of employees in company pension schemes have lost track of pension entitlements that they have built up during five years of their working life and are missing out on £152 million a year in pension payments.

☐ £2.4 billion of matured National Savings certificates are earning the lower extension rate because they have not been cashed in or reinvested.

☐ *People are paying for unnecessary borrow*ing when they could use money already saved to fund purchases. If 1 per cent of all personal borrowing was repaid, £500 million could be saved.

☐ £20 billion is sitting in obsolete accounts paying minimal rates of interest, losing £800 million a year.

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2 billion

Fund of fund unit trusts are useful for investors with less than £10,000, **Robert Miller** says

Promising portfolio

The need for investors to have a well-diversified *portfolio was underlined* by this week's worldwide stock market jitters.

Among the most popular *unit trusts sold over the past* year have been those investing in the emerging markets of the Far East and Latin America. *One category which has not* sold so well is the fund of funds sector. The marketing handle might not sound as exciting as emerging markets but the time could be right.

Fund of funds unit trusts provide an exposure to all the *unit trusts in a particular* group. Such funds are registered as unit trusts in their own right but are just the umbrella. Beneath this shelter *fund managers can switch in* and out of their different trusts depending on their view of individual stock markets.

Anne McMeehan, managing director of Framlington unit trust, says: "There is a compelling argument for investors with less than £10,000 to use a fund of funds managed portfolio. Even for much larger sums this sector offers an alternative to investors who do not want to take active day-to-day investment decisions."

In the past three years, the number of unit trusts listed under the Fund of Funds sector has more than doubled to 55 but, as Jim Clark, Gartmore director, explains, many of these are so-called broker funds which, although available to the public, are actually vehicles used by stockbrokers and independent financial advisers for their own clients. "We, along with City Financial and Providence Capitol, are the main players in this market. We act as the unit trust company but the fund management is done by the broker or adviser and they can use any one of the 1,500 unit trusts in the market."

Companies which offer more widely available fund of funds include the Prudential, Lloyds Bank, Abbey, Kleinwort Benson, Legal and General, M&G, Fidelity, Norwich Union and Save and Prosper.

The minimum investment is usually £1,000 and the average initial charge is 5.25 per cent. Unit trust groups do not double charge up front for investment in each individual fund thereafter. But annual management fees will be higher than single *unit trusts.*

Chrissy Keen, Fidelity director, believes that the extra costs are more than made up for by the increased spread of risk. She says: "Our moneybuilder fund of funds, in which the first £6,000 of any investment can be put in a personal equity plan, is invested in well over 1,000 companies around the world from 14 different Fidelity unit trusts. At the *moment we are* 50 per cent in the UK, 18 per cent in Europe, 10 per cent in South East Asia, with the rest divided between the US, Japan and international bonds."

Richard Hughes, a fund manager of M&G's £300 million Managed Income fund of funds which is also PEPable, argues that despite the income bias of the M & G unit trust it offers good long-term capital growth potential.

On the performance front, the latest Micropal statistics show that the top performing fund of funds over one and three years was Portfolio Trust, now renamed Portfolio Fund of Funds. Unusually, the portfolio invests in other companies' unit trusts including those of Fleming, Schroders, Lazards and Newton. In spite of the charging handicap, the trust was up over 50 per cent over one year and 100 per cent over three years.

Tim Miller, chairman of Portfolio Fund of Funds, says: "It may be difficult to be the top performer of all unit trusts but the fund of funds approach does not require instant reactions to events or decisions which have to be made overnight because of the time differences."

In selecting a particular fund of funds, investors should look at the all-round investment performance of the group involved. To put all your eggs in one basket is an act of faith.

FUND OF FUNDS

Value of £100 invested, cash value, offer to bid, net income reinvested

End date 01.02.94	
Start date 01.02.93	
1 The Portfolio Trust	150.67
2 PC Intl Strategy	141.13
3 GAM Amalgam	137.10
4 City Fincl F'mount Intl	136.41
5 Fidelity Money Builder	135.33
6 PC IPS Portfolio Trust	134.61
7 PC Premier Performers	133.70
8 Abbey Mastertrust	133.20
9 Britannia Lf Man Ptfl	132.13
10 City Fin F'mount Cap Gr	131.62
Sector Average	**125.64**
End date 01.02.94	
Start date 01.02.91	
1 The Portfolio Trust	203.30
2 Fidelity Money Builder	189.62
3 Prudential Managed Trust	189.23
4 Abbey Mastertrust	185.48
5 Schroder Inst Mngd Blncd	184.64
6 Royal Life Managed	183.68
7 *Framlington Man Port*	181.85
8 S&P Naster Fund	178.17
9 Morgan Grenfell Managed	178.12
10 PC IPS Portfolio Trust	177.13
Sector average	**171.06**

Source: Micropal



Far East markets are some of the most popular unit trusts

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This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited (the "London Stock Exchange"). Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital of the Company and all of the warrants, issued and to be issued pursuant to the Placing, the Intermediaries Offer and the Offer for Subscription, to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that listing will become effective and that dealings in the ordinary shares and warrants (in units of five ordinary shares and one warrant) will commence on Friday, 11th March, 1994. Separate dealings in the ordinary shares and warrants are expected to commence on Monday, 25th April, 1994.

Listing Particulars (the "Listing Particulars") relating to the Company dated 3rd February, 1994 alone contain full details of the history and business of the Company.

In applying for units you will be treated as applying on the basis of the Listing Particulars, which should be read in conjunction with this document, and the Terms and Conditions of the Offer for Subscription set out in this document. These together govern your rights and obligations. Words and expressions defined in the Listing Particulars have the same meanings in this document.

MERCURY EUROPEAN PRIVATISATION TRUST plc

(Incorporated and registered in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985 registered No. 2885609)

Placing, Intermediaries Offer and Offer for Subscription of up to 575 million ordinary shares

(with warrants attached on a one for five basis) at a price of 500p per unit (each unit consisting of five ordinary shares of 25p each and one warrant)

sponsored by S.G.Warburg Securities Ltd.

Summary

This summary is derived from and should be read in conjunction with the Listing Particulars, from which it is derived.

- Mercury European Privatisation Trust plc ("the Company") is a new investment trust which will invest in privatised companies throughout Europe (including the UK) with the objective of achieving long-term growth in capital and income.
- The Company will be managed by Mercury Asset Management plc ("Mercury"), a leading investment management house.
- The trend established in the UK of unlocking value through the transfer of enterprises from the public to the private sector is spreading throughout Europe, with major privatisation programmes already in progress in France, Italy and Spain.
- The shares of UK privatised companies, which include some of the UK's largest and best-known companies, have tended to produce superior capital and income returns compared with the UK stockmarket as a whole.
- There is currently in excess of £200 billion of privatisation stocks available in Europe, including £60 billion in Continental Europe.
- Mercury estimates that a further £80 billion of Continental European privatisation stocks will become available over the next five years, with issues in the telecommunications, utilities and financial services sectors expected to be prominent.
- As at 30th September, 1993, Mercury and its subsidiaries had funds under management of £55.5 billion, including over £5 billion invested in Continental Europe.
- Mercury has the expertise and experience required to manage a diversified portfolio of existing and future European privatisation stocks, which might otherwise be difficult for many UK investors to access.
- The Company will have an initial life of approximately ten years and will pay semi-annual dividends.
- Units comprising five ordinary shares and one warrant are being offered at 500p per unit. Units will be eligible for inclusion in a general PEP for both the current and the 1994/95 tax years.
- 30 million units (£150 million) are available under the Offer for Subscription. In addition, S.G.Warburg Securities Ltd. is placing 65 million units (£325 million) and a further 20 million units (£100 million) are available under the Intermediaries Offer.

Expected timetable	1994
Close of the Intermediaries Offer	Friday, 25th February
Receipt of Application Forms under the Offer for Subscription by	3.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 2nd March
Basis of allocation to be announced	Monday, 7th March
Despatch of definitive certificates in respect of units	Thursday, 10th March
Dealings to commence in units	Friday, 11th March
Latest date for transferring units into a 1993/94 PEP	Tuesday, 5th April
Latest date for transferring units into a 1994/95 PEP	Thursday, 21st April
Dealings to commence in ordinary shares and warrants separately	Monday, 25th April

Issue statistics

Issue price per unit (five ordinary shares and one warrant)	500p	
Issue price per ordinary share	100p	
Initial net asset value per ordinary share	95.5p	
	minimum	*maximum*
Number of ordinary shares following the Issue	325 million	575 million
Number of warrants following the Issue	65 million	115 million
Net proceeds of the Issue	£310 million	£549 million

The minimum figures set out above assume that only the units which are the subject of the Placing are issued. The maximum figures assume, in addition, that the units which are the subject of the Intermediaries Offer and the Offer for Subscription are subscribed in full.

Availability of listing particulars

If you require advice, you should consult your stockbroker, solicitor, accountant or other professional adviser authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986. Copies of the Listing Particulars are available during business hours for collection up to and including 2nd March, 1994, from the Company and from:

Mercury Asset Management plc
33 King William Street
London EC4R 9AS

S.G.Warburg Securities Ltd.
1 Finsbury Avenue
London EC2M 2PA

New Issues Department
Barclays Registrars,
PO Box 166 Bourne House,
34 Beckenham Road
Beckenham, Kent BR3 4TH

MERCURY EUROPEAN PRIVATISATION TRUST

S.G Warburg Securities Ltd. is a member of the Securities and Futures Authority and the London Stock Exchange. 12 February, 1994

Terms and conditions of application

In the case of a joint Application, references to you in these terms and conditions of Application are to each of you, and your liability is joint and several.

In these terms and conditions, which apply to the Offer for Subscription:

"Applicant" means a person or persons (in the case of joint applicants) whose name(s) appear(s) on the registration details of an Application Form; and

"Application" means the offer made by an Applicant by completing an Application Form (whether by or on behalf of an Applicant) and posting (or delivering) it to New Issues Department, Barclays Registrars (the "Receiving Agents").

The manner headed "Notes on how to complete the Application Form" as set out in the Listing Particulars forms part of these terms and conditions of Application.

(a) The contract created by the acceptance of an Application under the Offer for Subscription will be conditional on:

(i) the admission of the ordinary shares and the warrants issued and to be issued as mentioned in the Listing Particulars to the Official List ("Admission") becoming effective by not later than 11th March, 1994 (or such later date not being later than 25th March, 1994 as the Company and S.G.Warburg Securities may agree); and

(ii) the Placing and Offer Agreement referred to in paragraph 5(a) of Part III of the Listing Particulars becoming unconditional in all respects and not being terminated in accordance with its terms before Admission becomes effective.

(b) The right is reserved by the Company to present all cheques and banker's drafts for payment on receipt and to retain share and warrant certificates and surplus share and warrant certificates and application moneys, pending clearance of successful Applicants' cheques and banker's drafts. The Company also reserves the right to reject in whole or part, or to scale down or limit, any Application. The Company may treat Applications as valid and binding even if not made on all respects in accordance with the prescribed instructions and the Company may, at its discretion, accept an Application in respect of which payment is not received by the Company prior to the closing of the Offer for Subscription. If any Application is not accepted in full or if any contract created by acceptance does not become unconditional, the application monies or, as the case may be, the balance thereof will be returned (without interest) by returning each relevant Applicant's cheque or banker's draft or by crossed cheque in favour of the first-named Applicant, through the post at the risk of the person(s) entitled thereto. In the meantime, application monies will be retained by the Receiving Agents in a separate account.

(c) By completing and delivering an Application Form, you, as the Applicant (and, if you sign the Application Form on behalf of somebody else or a corporation, that person or corporation, except as referred to in paragraph (vii) below):

(i) offer to subscribe for the number of units specified in your Application Form (or such lesser number for which your Application is accepted) at the issue price on the terms of and subject to the Listing Particulars, including these terms and conditions, and subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company and the Warrant Instruments;

(ii) agree that, in consideration of the Company agreeing that it will not on or prior to 25th March, 1994 issue or allot any units the subject of the Offer to any person other than by means of the procedures referred to in the Listing Particulars, your Application cannot be revoked until after 25th March, 1994 and that this paragraph shall constitute a collateral contract between you and the Company which will become binding upon despatch by post to, or (in the case of delivery by hand) on receipt by, the Receiving Agents of your Application Form;

(iii) agree and warrant that your cheque or banker's draft may be presented for payment on receipt and will be honoured on first presentation and agree that if it is not so honoured you will not be entitled to receive a certificate in respect of the units until you make payment in cleared funds for such units and such payment is accepted by the Company in its absolute discretion (which acceptance shall be on the basis that you indemnify it, S.G.Warburg Securities and the Receiving Agents against all costs, damages, losses, expenses and liabilities arising out of or in connection with the failure of your remittance to be honoured on first presentation) and you agree that, at any time prior to the unconditional acceptance by the Company of such late payment, the Company may (without prejudice to its other rights) avoid the agreement to subscribe such units and may issue or allot such units to some other person, in which case you will not be entitled to any payment in respect of such units other than the refund to you (at your risk) of the proceeds (if any) of the cheque or banker's draft accompanying your Application, without interest;

(iv) agree that, in respect of those units for which your Application has been accepted and is not rejected, acceptance of your Application shall be constituted, at the election of the Company, or S.G Warburg Securities on behalf of the Company, either (i) by notification to the London Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation (in which case acceptance shall be on that basis) or (ii) by notification of acceptance thereof to the Receiving Agents;

(v) agree that any moneys returnable to you may be retained by the Receiving Agents pending clearance of your remittance and that such moneys will not bear interest;

(vi) authorise the Receiving Agents to send share certificate(s) in respect of the number of ordinary shares and warrant certificate(s) in respect of the number of warrants for which your Application is accepted and/or a crossed cheque for any monies returnable, by post, without interest, at the risk of the person(s) entitled thereto, to the address of the person (or, in the case of joint holders, the first-named person) named as an Applicant in the Application Form and to procure that your name (together with the name(s) of any other joint Applicant(s)) is/are entered on the register of members of the Company in respect of such ordinary shares and on the register of holders of warrants in respect of such warrants;

(vii) warrant that, if you sign the Application Form on behalf of somebody else or on behalf of a corporation, you have due authority to do so on behalf of that other person or corporation, and such person or corporation will also be bound accordingly and will be deemed also to have given the confirmations, warranties, undertakings and authorities contained herein and undertake to enclose your power of attorney or a copy thereof duly certified by a solicitor or bank with the Application Form;

(viii) agree that all Applications, acceptances of Applications and contracts resulting therefrom shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English Law, and that you submit to the jurisdiction of the English Courts and agree that nothing shall limit the right of the Company or S.G.Warburg Securities to bring any actions, suit or proceeding arising out of or in connection with any such Applications, acceptances of Applications and contracts in any other manner permitted by law or in any court of competent jurisdiction;

(ix) confirm that, in making such Application, neither you nor any person on whose behalf you are applying are relying on any information or representation in relation to the Company other than the information contained in the Listing Particulars and accordingly you agree that no person responsible solely or jointly for the Listing Particulars or any part thereof or involved in the preparation thereof shall have any liability for any such information or representation;

(x) irrevocably authorise the Receiving Agents and/or S.G.Warburg Securities, or any person authorised by either of them, as your agent, to do all things necessary to effect registration of any ordinary shares and warrants subscribed by or issued to you and/or any nominee(s) or into the name(s) of any person(s) in whose favour the entitlement to any such ordinary shares or warrants has been transferred and authorise any representative of the Receiving Agents or of S.G.Warburg Securities to execute any document required thereafter;

(xi) agree that, having had the opportunity to read the Listing Particulars, you shall be deemed to have had notice of all information and representations concerning the Company and the units contained therein;

(xii) confirm and warrant that you have read and complied with paragraph (d) below;

(xiii) confirm that you have reviewed the restrictions contained in paragraph (f) below and warrant as provided therein;

(xiv) warrant that, if you are an individual, you are not under the age of 18;

(xv) agree that all documents and cheques sent by post to, by or on behalf of the Company or the Receiving Agents, will be sent at the risk of the person(s) entitled thereto;

(xvi) agree, on request by the Company, or S.G.Warburg Securities on behalf of the Company, to disclose promptly in writing to the Company, any information which the Company or S.G.Warburg Securities may reasonably request in connection with your Application and authorise the Company and S.G.Warburg Securities to disclose any information relating to your Application as it considers appropriate;

(xvii) agree that S.G.Warburg Securities will not treat you as its customer by virtue of your Application being accepted or owe you any duties or responsibilities concerning the price of the units or the suitability for you of units or be responsible to you for providing the protection afforded to its customers.

(d) No person receiving a copy of the Listing Particulars in a territory other than the UK may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such Application Form unless, in the relevant territory, such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or such Application Form could lawfully be used without contravention of any registration or other legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the UK wishing to make an Application to satisfy himself as to full observance of the laws of any relevant territory in connection therewith, including obtaining any requisite governmental or other consents, observing any other formalities requiring to be observed in such territory and paying any issue, transfer or other taxes required to be paid in such territory.

(e) Applications must be made using an original Application Form; photocopies will not be accepted.

(f) The ordinary shares and the warrants have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933 (as amended) and, subject to certain exceptions, the ordinary shares and warrants may not be offered, sold, transferred or delivered, directly or indirectly, in the United States or to or for the benefit of any US Person or to any person purchasing such shares or warrants for offer, resale or transfer in the United States or to or for the benefit of any US Person as part of the distribution of such shares and warrants. Persons subscribing for ordinary shares with warrants attached shall be deemed, and (unless the Company is satisfied that ordinary shares with warrants attached can be allotted without breach of United States securities laws), shall be required, to represent and warrant to the Company that they are not a US Person and that they are not subscribing for such ordinary shares with warrants attached for the account of any US Person and will not offer, sell, repurchase, transfer or deliver, directly or indirectly, such ordinary shares or warrants in the United States or to any US Person. As used herein, "US Person" means any person or entity defined as such in Rule 902(o) under the Securities Act of 1933 (as amended) and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, a US Person includes a resident of the United States, a corporation, partnership or other entity created or organised in or under the laws of the United States and an estate or trust, if any executor, administrator or trustee is a US Person, but shall not include a branch or agency of a United States bank or insurance company that is operating outside the United States for valid business reasons as a locally regulated branch or agency engaged in the banking or insurance business and "United States" means the United States of America (including the States and the District of Columbia), its territories, its possessions and other areas subject to its jurisdiction. The Company has not been and will not be registered under the United States Investment Company Act of 1940 (as amended).

(g) The basis of allocation will be determined by S.G Warburg Securities in its absolute discretion after consultation with the Company. The right is reserved to reject in whole or in part and/or scale down and/or ballot any Application or any part thereof. The right is reserved to treat as valid any Application not in all respects completed in accordance with the instructions relating to the Application Form, including if the accompanying cheque or banker's draft is for the wrong amount. Dealings prior to the issue of certificates for ordinary shares and warrants will be at the risk of Applicants. A person on dealing must recognise the risk that an Application may not have been accepted to the extent anticipated or at all.

(h) 30 million units will be available for subscription under the Offer for Subscription. Further units may be available for subscription under the Offer for Subscription to the extent that units allocated to the Placing and/or the Intermediaries Offer are not subscribed thereunder. In the event that applications under the Intermediaries Offer and the Offer for Subscription exceed the aggregate number of units available, the further units that will be available for subscription under the Offer for Subscription will be determined by S.G.Warburg Securities in its absolute discretion after consultation with the Company.

(i) Save where the context otherwise requires, words and expressions defined in the Listing Particulars have the same meanings when used in the Application Form and explanatory notes in relation thereto.

Application Form Mercury European Privatisation Trust plc

- Notes on how to complete the form are given below. Applications must be for a minimum of 200 units (£1,000).

PLEASE
- Use BLOCK CAPITALS where appropriate. Photocopies will not be accepted
- Make your cheque out to "Barclays Bank PLC A/C MEPT" and return this form to arrive by 3.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 2nd March, 1994 to New Issues Department, Barclays Registrars, PO Box 166, Bourne House, 34 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4TH. If you post your Application Form you are recommended to use first-class post and to allow at least four days for delivery. If you have any queries relating to the completion of this form, please telephone New Issues Department, Barclays Registrars on 081 650 4866

1 *See Note 1 below* — I/We offer to subscribe for _____ units (minimum 200) in the Company at 500p per unit on the terms and conditions of Application set out in Part IV of the Listing particulars dated 3rd February, 1994. Important: Each unit consists of five ordinary shares and one warrant.

2 — I/We attach a cheque or banker's draft for the amount payable on (i.e. for 200 units pay £1,000 etc.) £ _____ (This should be the number of units applied for multiplied by 500p).

3 — Mr, Mrs, Miss or title _____ Surname _____ Forenames (in full) _____ Address (in full) _____ Postcode _____ Daytime telephone number _____

4 — Signature _____ Date 1994

5 *See Note 2 below* — Please pin here your cheque or banker's draft for the amount shown in Box 2 above made payable to "Barclays Bank PLC A/C MEPT" and crossed "A/C Payee only"

6 *See Note 3 below* — *Box 6 must only be completed by joint Applicants — Do NOT complete this section if you wish to transfer units into a PEP*

Applicant 2 — Mr, Mrs, Miss or title _____ Surname _____ Forenames (in full) _____ Address (in full) _____ Postcode _____ Signature _____

Applicant 3 — Mr, Mrs, Miss or title _____ Surname _____ Forenames (in full) _____ Address (in full) _____ Postcode _____ Signature _____

Applicant 4 — Mr, Mrs, Miss or title _____ Surname _____ Forenames (in full) _____ Address (in full) _____ Postcode _____ Signature _____

Notes

1 Applications must be for a minimum of 200 units (£1,000). Applications for more than 200 units must be in one of the following multiples:
- for more than 200 units (£1,000) but not more than 4,000 units (£20,000), in multiples of 200 units (£1,000);
- for more than 4,000 units (£20,000) but not more than 20,000 units (£100,000), in multiples of 1,000 units (£5,000);
- for more than 20,000 units (£100,000), in multiples of 10,000 units (£50,000).

Applications for any other numbers may be rejected. Applications for units are made on the basis of the information in the Listing Particulars of the Company dated 3rd February, 1994

2 Your cheque or banker's draft must be drawn on (a) an account at a branch (in each case be at the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man) of a bank which is either a member of the Cheque & Credit Clearing Company Limited or the CHAPS & Town Clearing Company Limited or a member of the Committee of Scottish or Belfast Clearing Houses or which has arranged for its cheques or banker's drafts to be cleared through the facilities provided for members of those companies or associations and must bear the appropriate sorting code in the top right-hand corner

The right is reserved to reject any Application in respect of which the Applicant's cheque or banker's draft has not been cleared on first presentation. An Application may be accompanied by a cheque or banker's draft drawn by someone other than the Applicant(s), but any monies returned will be sent by cheque crossed "A/C Payee only" in favour of the first-named Applicant.

3 You may apply jointly with up to three other persons. Boxes 3 and 4 must be completed by one Applicant. All other persons who wish to join in the Application must complete and sign Box 6. Another person may sign on behalf of any joint Applicant if that person is duly authorised to do so under a power of attorney. The power of attorney (or a copy, duly certified by a solicitor or bank) must be enclosed for inspection. Share certificates, cheques and other correspondence will be sent to the address in Box 3.

Please tick this box if you wish to receive information on how to transfer your units into a PEP

MERCURY EUROPEAN PRIVATISATION TRUST

TMEP07

Data Protection Act 1984: We will not disclose your details outside Mercury or associated companies and undertakings or agents acting on behalf of Mercury and its associated companies. Those details may be used by us in making for us enquiries about the people's products. If you would prefer not to receive such details, please write to Mercury

We'll double the amount invested in your pension for up to three months.

Take out a Sun Life monthly or annual contribution personal pension plan or AVC for more than 5 years, and we'll double the amount invested in your plan until 30th April 1994.

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Please note, that past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future, and that the value of units can go down as well as up.

To get the maximum benefit from this offer, you'll need to talk to someone quickly.

To find out more, call free on 0800 37 37 39, or return the coupon, and one of our Consultants will contact you to arrange an appointment.

CALL FREE 0800 37 37 39

OR CONTACT YOUR USUAL FINANCIAL ADVISER

*Source: Micropal - Managed at 1.2.94.

Surname: Forename:

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss: Date of birth:

Telephone Day: Evening:

Address:

Postcode:

To: Sun Life Consultant Services Dept.
PO Box 520, Freepost (KE247/2)
Bristol BS99 1BR

SUN LIFE

SUN LIFE Unit Services Limited

Sun Life would no longer send you details of Sun Life products which may be appropriate to you. Tick here if you do not wish to receive these offers.

Registered in England No. 1390717. Registered Office: 107 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DU

Sun Life Unit Services Limited markets life assurance, pensions and unit trust contracts for companies in the Sun Life Marketing Group.

Sun Life Assurance Society plc, Sun Life Pensions Management Limited and Sun Life Unit Services Limited are members of LAUTRO.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 071 538 8800				
Balanced	468.50	495.80	-3.80	...
UK Equity	599.30	634.20	-11.60	..
Property	448.40	474.50	+27.60	
Fixed Interest	337.40	357.10	-1.80	...
Money	245.00	259.30	+0.20	
International	376.70	398.70	+0.90	..
AETNA LIFE INSURANCE 2-12 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD 0800 010575				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	17.61	18.54	+0.01	..
Bear	20.08	21.14	-0.35	
Owl	20.77	21.87	-0.39	...
Bull	19.07	20.08	-0.30	...
Stag	20.62	21.71	-0.10	...
Gilt Edged	19.45	19.45	-0.23	
Deposit	15.49	15.49	+0.01	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	23.65	24.90	+0.03	..
Bear	27.25	28.69	-0.52	..
Owl	28.24	29.73	-0.63	...
Bull	24.65	25.95	-0.31	...
Stag	26.01	27.38	-0.18	..
Gilt Edged	24.08	24.08	+0.27	...
Deposit	19.78	19.78	+0.02	...
Pre 1962 Series				
3-Way Fund	618.42	618.43	-5.49	
1962 Series				
UK Equity	371.90	391.48	-4.24	...
N Amer Equity	303.84	319.84	+3.00	
Far East Equity	456.30	480.22	+2.12	
Fixed	305.03	321.09	-3.72	
Cash Deposit	199.82	210.34	+0.16	...
Property	150.25	158.16	-0.45	...
Special Opp	411.15	432.79	+5.15	..
Managed	328.05	345.32	-3.12	..
Index-Linked Fd	197.64	208.05	-2.91	..
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 0202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	273.30	287.70	-0.40	...
-do- Acc	499.00	525.30	+0.70	
Equity Fd Inc	180.80	190.40	-5.20	
-do- Acc	234.70	247.10	-6.70	...
Selective Fd	496.80	523.00	-5.40	...
Money Fd	367.30	386.70	+0.10	..
Prop Fd Ser 4	388.70	409.20	+0.60	..
Equity Ser 4	222.30	234.10	-4.90	..
Man Ser 4	698.50	735.30	-7.30	
Conv Ser 4	321.00	337.90		...
Money Ser 4	320.70	337.60	+0.10	
Fixed Int Ser 4	356.90	375.70	-2.20	...
American Ser 4	530.20	558.20	-0.70	
High Inc Ser 4	697.90	734.70	-12.40	..
Indexed Inv Ser 4	217.70	229.20	-0.90	
Japan Ser 4	375.90	395.70	+5.50	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 0707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1637.6	1723.7	-36.00	
European Fd Acc	380.00	400.00	-3.20	
Fixed Int Acc	546.30	575.00	-7.50	..
Gtd Money Acc	325.70	342.80	+0.20	
Intl Managed Acc	620.70	653.30	-5.30	..
Int Fxd Int Acc	332.90	350.40	+2.40	..
Japan Fund	301.10	316.90	+6.20	...
N American Acc	332.40	349.80	-1.40	..
Prop Fd Acc	416.80	438.70	+0.40	
Multiple Inv Acc	1096.2	1153.9	-16.80	..
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 0793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	362.70	381.80	+0.30	...
Equity Acc	1477.4	1555.2	-32.50	...
Property Acc	525.10	552.80	+0.90	...
Far East Acc	364.60	383.80	-0.50	...
Managed Capital	562.90	592.60	-11.70	...
-do- Acc	1134.1	1193.8	-23.30	...
Overseas Acc	990.60	1042.8	-29.60	...
Gilt Edged Acc	494.90	521.00	-4.80	...
Amer Equity Acc	760.70	800.80	-1.20	
Amer Man Acc	325.30	342.50	+0.60	..
Amer Prop Acc	120.20	126.60	+5.10	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 0494 463463				
Reserve Ser 5	149.00	156.80	-0.30	..
Balced Ser 5	709.70	747.00	-12.30	...
Opportunity Ser 5	164.20	172.80	-2.80	...
Distribution Ser 5	108.40	114.10	-1.90	...
UK Equities Ser 5	976.80	1028.2	-34.20	
Higher Inc Ser 5	1056.7	1112.3	-33.70	...
North Amer Ser 5	439.50	462.60	-2.10	...
Far East Ser 5	602.50	634.20	+2.40	...
Europe Ser 5	368.90	388.30	-7.00	...
Intnl Ser 5	576.80	607.10	-6.30	...
Property Ser 5	525.20	552.80	+0.50	...
Fixed Int Ser 5	422.00	444.20	-2.60	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S5	186.80	196.60	-1.70	...
Gteed Dep Ser 5	289.20	304.40	+0.20	..
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 081 534 5544				
Equity Acc	876.10	922.30	-20.40	...
-do- Initial	595.90	627.30	-13.90	
Gilt Edged Acc	399.50	420.60	-4.40	..
-do- Initial	274.10	288.60	-3.10	
International Acc	427.50	450.00	-0.30	..
-do- Initial	291.40	306.80	-0.20	..
Managed Acc	544.90	573.60	-7.70	...
-do- Initial	372.70	392.40	-5.30	..
Money Acc	283.60	298.60	+0.20	...
Property Acc	281.10	295.90	+0.30	...
-do- Initial	190.70	200.80	...	
America Acc	298.30	314.00	-0.50	...
Australia Acc	245.60	258.60	-1.10	
Financial Acc	352.80	371.40	-11.40	...
500 Accum	476.40	501.50	-4.30	
Japan Genl Acc	372.60	392.30	+5.80	...
Income Acc	546.30	575.10	-12.30	
Leisure Acc	245.20	258.20	-5.00	
Special Sits Acc	251.40	264.70	-6.00	
Univ Tech Acc	163.80	172.50	-1.20	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 0634 834000				
The Managed Fd	836.93	836.93	-8.07	
Income Fund	792.52	834.24	-13.03	...
Extra Income	723.06	761.12	-13.05	..
Worldwide Gth	544.25	572.90	-1.39	..
Balanced Fund	686.43	722.56	-9.51	
Smllr Cos Recov	733.12	771.71	+1.81	...
N Amer & Genrl	394.87	415.66	+1.76	
Pacific Basin	518.78	546.09	-5.04	..
German Growth	228.95	241.00	-0.57	...
Japan Growth	192.48	202.62	+1.44	..
The UK Gth Fd	218.35	229.85	-3.05	
Contl Euro Gth	135.13	142.25	-0.59	..
Property Fund	385.90	406.22	+2.47	..
Fixed Interest	324.22	341.29	-4.69	
Cash Fund	276.28	290.83	+0.17	
Managed Inv	507.32	534.03	-5.21	..
Nth Amer Recov	263.45	277.32	-0.27	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	492.23	519.14	-0.19	
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 0475 868000				
Measured Perf	174.10	184.20	+1.60	..
Performance Plus	176.30	186.50	-2.30	...
With Profit Perf	166.40	176.00	+0.20	
UK Opportunity	187.90	198.80	-5.40	..
Euro Opportunity	228.00	241.20	-4.10	...
North Amer Opp	177.10	187.40	+0.40	..
Far East Opp	217.20	229.80	-1.70	
Gwth Prop Ser 1	142.00	149.40	+0.50	
Gth Prop Ser 2	177.10	187.40	+11.20	
Fixed Int	196.30	207.70	-2.20	...
Cash	152.70	161.50	+0.10	...
Overseas	203.20	215.00	-2.60	
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 0707 51122				
Equity Growth	£238.60	...		...
Managed	342.30	360.40	-1.90	..
Property	222.80	234.60	-0.30	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	253.80	267.20	-3.10	
Equity	384.60	404.90	-3.80	
Cash	212.60	223.90	+0.10	
CLife Euro Mgd	378.50	398.50	-4.00	
CLife Intl Fd	371.60	391.20	+1.40	..
For Cannon see Lincoln National				
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 0908 606101				
Property Fund	182.50	192.20		..
Managed Fund	631.70	665.00	-11.90	..
Equity Fund	359.90	378.90	-9.10	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0272 290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	301.50	317.40	-5.40	..
Ruby	178.20	187.60	-1.20	
Emerald	147.90	155.70	-1.10	
Equity	339.20	357.10	-10.70	
Property	212.20	223.40	-1.20	
Gilt & Fixed Int	216.90	228.40	-2.40	
Indexed Secs	172.60	181.70	-1.80	..
Cash	182.50	192.20	+0.10	
Nth American	226.40	238.40	+0.70	..
Far East	370.00	389.50	-8.30	..
International	245.70	258.70	-2.00	
Special Sits	356.00	374.80	-2.10	...
Intl Income	305.90	322.10	-6.30	..
American Inc	198.90	209.40	-0.30	
European	317.10	333.80	-2.70	
Japanese	146.60	154.40	+1.80	..
SE Asia	410.70	432.40	-12.10	...
With Profits Reg	155.50	163.70	-0.20	...
-do- Spec	155.50	163.70	+0.20	..
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	336.60	354.40	-6.30	
Equity	396.70	417.60	-14.20	
Property	192.20	202.40	-1.20	
Gilt & Fixed Int	267.20	281.30	-3.00	
Index Linked	183.60	193.30	-2.40	..
Cash	241.50	254.30	+0.20	...
Nth American	280.40	295.20	+0.70	
Far East Acc	347.90	366.30	+0.20	
International Acc	316.50	333.20	-1.40	..
Special Sits	512.70	539.70	-4.30	..
European Flex	447.30	470.90	-4.50	
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 0634 890 000				
(Units):Key	£236.01	...	+1.52	..
-do- Pacemaker	£130.29	..	+3.28	
-do- Cash	199.34	209.83	+0.10	
-do- Equity	568.12	598.02	-14.14	...
-do- Fxd Int	382.82	402.97	-4.00	..
-do- Managed	407.36	428.80	-8.62	..
-do- Property	392.26	412.91	+0.35	..
(Pens)- Cash Cap	207.21	218.13	+0.04	...
-do- Cash Inv	294.80	310.33	+0.27	..
-do- Equity Cap	1526.4	1606.7	-40.54	
-do- Equity Inv	2171.6	2285.9	-56.10	
-do- Fixed Cap	416.49	438.43	-5.87	...
-do- Fixed Inv	592.56	623.75	-7.94	
-do- Index Cap	215.52	226.87	-4.61	
-do- Index Inv	306.62	322.77	-6.08	..
Mngd Cap	598.86	645.90	...	...
Mngd Inv	852.01	898.86	-19.46	..
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3. 071 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5)	£740.67	...	-13.67	
Var Ann (5)	196.18	...	-1.49	
Prime: Managed	418.40	440.50	-9.90	
Prime: UK Equity	499.70	526.00	-18.60	..
Prime: Int Equity	326.80	344.10	-2.00	..
Prime: Property	224.90	236.80	+3.90	...
Prime Fxd Int	252.30	265.60	-3.10	...
Prime Index-Lnk	181.00	190.60	-2.30	...
Prime: Cash	200.00	210.60	...	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 0438 744840				
Managed Fund	1189.2	1251.7	+8.10	..
Equity Fund	1740.0	1831.5	+1.00	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 0483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	615.20	647.50	-13.10	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	380.70	400.70	-4.30	..
Life Equity Acc	846.90	891.40	-25.90	
Life Money Acc	293.70	309.10	...	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	865.20	910.70	-42.20	
Life Intl Acc	527.90	555.60	-1.70	
Life High Inc Acc	806.40	848.80	-21.20	...
Life Property Acc	264.00	277.90	+0.30	
Crown Brit Inv A	1389.9		..	..
Brewin Equity	731.60	770.10	-5.60	..
Life Equity Acc	234.00	246.30	...	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 0242 221311				
Secure Fund	170.90	179.90	+0.10	
Blue Chip Fund	254.40	267.80	-2.30	
-do- Series 2	164.60	173.30	-1.40	..
Adventurous Fd	221.50	233.20	-3.00	...
-do- Series 2	167.70	176.60	-2.20	
Performance Fd	264.00	278.00	+0.30	..
-do- Series 2	172.30	181.40	+0.20	..
UK Pref Fxd Int	149.20	157.10	-1.00	...
UK Equity Fund	166.80	175.60	-3.30	
Property Fund	114.10	120.20	+1.30	
Envrnmntl Opps	164.00	172.70	-3.00	
Euro Fund	187.40	197.30	...	..
North Amer Fd	203.30	214.10	..	..
Oriental Ops	266.00	280.00	-2.20	
Japanese Fund	133.20	140.30	+2.00	..
Bd & West Life	119.10	125.40	-0.10	...
Bd & West Pen	131.80	138.80	+0.20	
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 071 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	285.00	295.30	-5.70	3.10
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 0722 413366				
Managed (Mixd)	318.10	334.90	-4.90	..
UK Equity	421.50	443.70	-10.40	..
Stewardship	368.40	387.80	-3.50	...
Overseas Equity	297.60	313.30	+0.10	
North American	158.80	167.20	-0.80	
Pacific Basin	179.60	189.10	+0.10	
European	208.90	219.90	-0.40	
Property	200.30	210.80	+0.10	...
Fixed Interest	243.80	256.70	-3.50	...
Index Linked	172.80	181.90	-1.40	
Cash	195.20	205.50	+0.10	
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 071 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	386.10	406.50	-1.80	..
GT Plan Wwide	604.80	636.70	-6.10	..
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier Street, York YO1 1HR. 0904 628982				
Managed	215.40	226.70	-3.50	
Unitised Profit	128.60	135.30	-0.20	..
UK Equity	287.70	302.70	-6.40	
Fixed Int	204.90	215.60	-3.20	
Index-Linked	173.20	182.20	-2.20	
Cash Deposit	170.50	179.30	+0.10	
Property	179.60	188.90	+0.10	
International	195.20	206.40	-0.60	
American	162.60	171.10	+0.40	
Japan	258.20	271.70	+2.40	..
Japan Smllr Cos	264.40	278.30	+2.50	
European	183.80	193.40	-2.50	
Pacific Fund	325.00	342.00	-5.00	..
Conv Life	144.90	152.40	-1.90	
GENERAL PORTFOLIO LIFE Gen Portfolio House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 0279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	735.10	735.10	-9.50	...
-do- Inv A	735.00	773.80	-10.00	
UK Equity	416.90	438.90	-10.90	...
Gilt Plus	216.40	227.90	-3.10	
Managed	323.10	340.20	-4.30	
Inter Man	291.40	306.80	-1.20	
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 071 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	737.10	767.80		...
Managed Initial	508.20	535.00	-8.40	..
-do- Acc	711.60	749.10	-11.40	..
Equity Initial	739.40	778.30	-18.50	
-do- Acc	1035.3	1089.8	-25.40	...
Fixed Int Initial	477.40	502.50	-1.60	
-do- Acc	668.40	703.60	-2.00	...
Intl Initial	505.80	532.40	-0.40	
-do- Acc	708.20	745.40	-0.30	
Nth Amer Initial	191.60	201.70	+0.80	..
-do- Acc	244.20	257.00	-1.10	...
Pacific Initial	274.10	288.50	-2.40	
-do- Acc	346.00	364.20	-2.90	
Property Initial	167.10	175.90	...	
-do- Acc	233.80	246.10	..	
Index-Lnkd Initl	168.60	177.40	-2.20	..
-do- Acc	214.80	226.10	-2.70	
Deposit Initial	195.40	205.70		
-do- Acc	273.60	288.00	+0.10	
Euro Initial	104.70	110.20	-1.90	..
-do- Acc	123.30	129.80	-2.20	..
HAMBRO GUARDIAN ASSURANCE Kingsgate, 1 King Edward Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4HG. 0277 200939				
Managed	173.60	182.70	-2.10	
-do- Pens	214.80	226.10	-3.50	..
UK Equity	173.00	182.10	-3.00	..
-do- Pens	198.20	208.60	-4.40	
International	150.90	158.80	+3.10	
-do- Pens	164.70	173.30	+4.10	
Deposit	137.00	144.20	-0.10	
-do- Pens	160.60	169.00	+0.10	..
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 071 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	394.50	419.70	-7.30	..
North America	368.10	391.60	-1.00	...
Far East Fund	713.80	759.40	-13.80	
Global Managed	505.20	537.50	-8.60	
Deposit Fund	224.20	236.10	+0.10	
Prime Residential	128.10	134.90	+0.90	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European Fund	269.70	283.90	-2.50	
Fixed Interest	71.60	76.20	-0.20	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 081 686 4355				
Security Fund	526.10	556.90	-15.80	..
British Fund	545.00	576.90	-16.40	..
International	549.40	581.40	-4.50	
Dollar Fund	384.40	406.80	-0.30	
Capital Fund	487.00	515.40	-11.40	
Income Fund	724.20	766.40	-22.70	
Property Series A	432.60	457.80	-0.50	5.00
Property Units	707.00	742.40	-0.70	..
Financial Fund	626.70	663.20	-19.80	...
Managed Ser A	563.90	596.70	-11.10	
Managed Units	1009.6	1062.8	-19.70	...
High Yield Fund	703.20	744.20	-14.60	..
Money Series A	280.90	297.30	+0.20	
Money Units	371.20	390.80	+0.20	
Equity Fund	643.40	680.90	-14.90	..
Fixed Interest	396.10	419.20	-4.70	
Indexed Secs	191.80	203.00	-2.30	..
European Fund	752.10	795.90	-7.30	
Natural Res	315.00	333.40	-12.90	..
Far East Fund	699.30	740.00	-4.50	
Smaller Cos	535.90	567.00	-1.90	
Special Sits	469.40	496.90	-11.70	
Man Currency	259.80	275.00	-2.00	
Japanese Tech	279.10	294.30	+7.60	
US Smaller Cos	226.00	239.20	-1.10	..
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3TF. 0727 48181				
Global Managed	579.60	610.10	-4.60	..
Global Property	281.00	295.80	...	...
Global Fixed Int	535.60	563.80	-9.50	
Global Equity	616.70	649.20	-7.90	...
Global Cash	208.10	219.10	+0.20	
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 0452 371371				
Gtd Mgd	504.20	530.70	-5.90	...
Property	466.70	491.20	...	
Managed	437.00	460.00	-7.00	
American	421.90	444.10	-3.00	..
UK Equity Fd	471.20	496.00	-11.30	
Japan	225.10	236.90	-3.00	
Index-Lkd	189.10	199.10	-2.60	..
High Yield	889.10	935.90	-17.80	..
Growth Cap	453.40	477.20	-6.00	..
Money	392.90	413.50	-0.20	..
International	418.60	440.60	-2.50	..
Henderson Active	233.90	246.20	-1.40	..
Perpetual Active	350.60	369.00	+0.30	...
Growth Cap	453.40	477.20	-6.00	..
-do- Acc	682.50	718.40	-10.70	..
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 0273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	135.10	142.30		
-do- Acc	181.70	191.30	-0.10	...
Brit Opps Int	149.40	157.30	-4.20	
-do- Acc	180.90	190.50	-5.00	
Cash Initial	167.10	175.90	-0.10	
-do- Acc	230.60	245.40	+0.30	
Equity Initial	687.60	723.80	-23.50	
-do- Acc	1154.4	1215.2	-39.30	
Fixed Initial	371.40	391.00	-4.50	
-do- Acc	623.50	656.40	-7.60	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	142.90	150.40	-1.60	
-do- Acc	204.50	215.30	-2.50	
Intl Initial	381.00	401.10	-1.40	
-do- Acc	629.70	662.90	-2.30	..
Managed Initial	511.70	538.70	-10.90	
-do- Acc	859.10	904.40	-15.40	
Property Initial	202.70	213.40		
-do- Acc	340.40	358.40	+0.10	
LIFE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND 113 Dundas Street, Edinburgh EH3 5EB 031 550 5000				
Managed Fund	379.00	399.50	-5.90	
UK Equity	604.10	635.90	-14.00	
Property	296.20	311.80		
Money Market	246.50	259.50	+0.20	..
Fixed Interest	334.50	352.20	-5.60	
Japan	414.20	436.00	-5.60	
North America	166.00	174.80	-0.40	...
International	319.60	336.50	-1.40	..
European	294.10	309.60	+0.30	..
Far East	146.10	153.80	-0.70	
LINCOLN NATIONAL 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 081 902 8876				
Equity Units	£130.76		-4.23	
Property Units	£27.00		-0.02	..
Bal Bd Exec Unit	£68.20	£72.00	-1.16	..
2nd Equity Acc	658.50	693.40	-19.80	...
2nd High Inc Ac	632.50	665.90	-19.70	
2nd Property Acc	246.60	259.60	-0.30	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	187.20	197.10	-1.90	..
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	495.10	521.10	-7.90	..
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	248.40	261.50	-3.60	..
2nd Deposit Acc	274.20	288.60		
2nd Gilt Acc	316.30	332.90	-6.60	...
2nd Amer Acc	731.70	770.20	-0.10	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	260.90	274.60	-2.50	..
2nd Index Acc	211.10	222.30	-3.70	...
2nd Far East Acc	512.60	539.60	+1.40	...
2nd Global Acc	193.30	203.40	-2.70	...
2nd Euro Acc	169.00	177.90	-3.50	...
2nd Japan Acc	212.30	223.40	+2.10	
2nd Heritage Acc	69.90	73.60	-0.10	..
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	164.50	173.10	+0.50	..
2nd Cap Gth Acc	136.60	143.90	-3.40	..
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6EA 0272 279179				
Equity	£948.80		-18.00	
Fixed Interest	£428.80	..	-5.50	...
Property	£369.30		+0.40	...
Deposit	£284.40	...	+0.20	...
Mixed	£514.20		-6.30	...
Indexed Stock	£221.00		-3.20	..
International	£302.70		+1.50	..
Equity A	£220.40		-4.20	..
Fixed Int A	£190.50		-2.40	...
Property A	£162.50		+3.10	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Deposit A	£167.40		+0.10	...
Mixed A	£202.20	...	-2.00	...
Index Stock A	£173.20	..	-2.60	...
International A	£189.60	...	+1.00	...
Equity P	£800.00		-19.80	
Fixed Int P	£558.10		-6.90	..
Property P	£301.40	...	+0.50	..
Deposit P	£331.70		+0.10	..
Mixed P	£574.70	...	-7.70	...
Index Stock P	£251.30	...	-3.70	..
International P	£356.10	...	+2.10	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 0392 283456				
Inv Trust Cap	£670.60	...	-21.80	...
-do- Acc	£1082.4		-34.20	..
Property Cap	£140.80	..	+0.10	...
-do- Acc	£228.70	..	+0.30	..
Fxd Interest Cap	£215.70	...	-3.60	...
-do- Acc	£337.50	...	-5.40	..
Equity Cap	£348.50	...	-6.80	..
-do- Acc	£551.90	...	-10.20	..
Internad Cap	£261.70	...	+1.00	...
-do- Acc	£410.70	...	+2.00	...
Gtd Deposit Cap	£168.10	...		
-do- Acc	£260.10		+0.10	
Flexible Cap	£376.90	...	-4.60	...
-do- Acc	£595.50	...	-6.70	..
Moneymaker Fd	£462.60	...	-5.90	..
Capital Growth	£1776.4	..	-26.10	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 0245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	429.50	451.10	-0.80	...
Amer Rec Bond	503.10	528.40	+0.40	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	246.50	259.00	+0.30	...
Australasia Bd	261.00	274.20	-6.90	...
Commodity Bond	341.60	356.80	-2.00	...
Deposit Bond Acc	353.10	370.80	+0.20	...
Equity Bond Acc	1571.5	1650.2	-29.60	...
European Bd Acc	389.40	408.90	+0.10	
Extra Yld Bd Acc	756.50	794.40	-21.80	...
Far East Bd Acc	351.90	369.50	-7.40	...
Gilt Bond Acc	476.10	500.00	-9.70	
Gold Bond Acc	175.40	184.30	-9.60	...
High Yield Bond	365.90	384.30	-13.90	3.62
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	221.40	232.60	-4.10	
International Bd	804.00	844.30	-8.20	...
Japan Bond Acc	286.20	300.60	+3.40	
Japan Sm Cos Ac	276.30	290.30	+6.50	..
Managed Bonds	936.20	982.00	-11.20	..
Prop Bond Acc	361.60	379.80	+0.40	
Rec Bond Acc	794.80	834.90	-11.20	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 0903 204631				
UK Equity	241.10	253.90	-5.70	...
UK Equity Acc	330.60	348.00	-7.50	...
Special Sits	100.90	106.30	-1.00	
Special Sits Acc	138.40	145.70	-1.40	...
North American	189.70	199.70	-0.80	...
N American Acc	260.20	273.90	-0.90	
Pacific Basin	409.30	430.90	-3.90	...
Pacific Basin Acc	561.30	590.90	-4.90	...
Fixed Interest	307.00	323.20	-5.30	...
Fixed Interest Acc	421.50	443.70	-6.90	...
Property	164.30	173.00	..	
Property Acc	225.60	237.50	+0.20	...
Deposit	152.00	160.00	...	...
Deposit Acc	209.10	220.30	+0.20	...
Managed	276.70	291.30	-5.00	...
Managed Acc	349.80	368.30	-5.90	..
MANULIFE GROUP St Georges Way, Stevenage, Herts 0438 356101				
Managed Fund	734.60	773.30	-10.90	...
Property Fund	486.90	512.50	+0.50	...
Equity Fund	944.40	994.10	-25.30	...
Gilt Edged Fd	642.80	676.60	-8.30	...
Deposit Fund	322.40	339.40	+0.20	...
Investment Fd	401.00	421.10	-10.80	...
International	582.90	613.50	+0.50	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0272 266 366				
Property	435.10	458.00	-1.40	...
UK Equity	358.00	376.80	-10.10	...
Gilt Edged	624.50	657.30	-7.30	...
Interest Fund	373.50	393.10	+0.40	...
UK Fund	518.80	546.10	-18.80	...
Intl Equity	662.40	697.20	-6.80	...
Intl Managed	616.00	648.40	-12.40	...
North American	222.90	234.20	-1.20	
Far East	533.60	561.60	-7.40	...
Intl Currency	272.00	286.30	+2.00	...
NM LIFE ASSURANCE Enterprise House, Portsmouth 0705 827733				
Equity	154.50	162.60	-1.40	...
Fixed Interest	556.30	585.40	-6.00	...
Managed	732.30	770.80	-6.60	...
Deposit	331.30	348.70	+0.30	...
Property	421.80	444.00	-0.60	...
American	426.90	448.90	+2.30	...
Australian	576.10	606.40	-20.70	...
European	531.10	559.00	-6.30	...
Global Managed	...	...	...	...
Income Acc	791.20	832.80	-25.40	...
-do- Dist	503.20	529.60	-21.60	3.60
International	336.80	354.50	+0.40	...
Japan Smaller	526.40	554.10	+8.80	...
Singapore & Mal	376.80	396.60	-14.30	...
Smaller Cos	455.00	478.90	-2.70	...
Tokyo Fund	688.50	724.70	+11.20	...
UK Equity	615.10	647.40	-18.70	...
CCM Vangd Mg	769.50	810.00	-11.20	
Equity Pens Cap	...	...	...	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 071 623 4200				
Managed	499.70	525.90	-10.70	...
UK Equity	621.30	654.00	-22.20	..
Overseas Equity	506.70	533.30	-3.00	
Americas	443.10	466.40	+0.30	..
Far East	607.60	639.50	-4.10	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property	206.30	217.10	-0.30	..
Fixed Interest	383.00	403.10	-2.70	..
Indexed Gilt	239.40	252.00	-2.60	
Deposit	211.00	222.10	+0.10	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 0603 622200				
Managed Fund	1438.4	1514.1	-27.90	
Eqty Fund	3126.2	3290.7	-41.30	...
Property Fd	543.80	572.40	+0.20	...
Fixed Int Fd	615.90	648.30	-5.00	...
Deposit Fund	338.50	356.30	+0.30	...
Intl Fund	247.50	260.50	-1.90	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 0733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	154.70	162.90	+0.40	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	311.40	327.80	+0.70	...
Inv Equity	1249.2	1315.0	-35.90	...
Inv Managed	875.20	921.30	-14.80	...
Ret Managed	986.10	1038.1	-16.50	..
For Prolific see Scottish Provident				
PROVIDENCE CAPITOL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 0256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	304.70	321.50	-8.80	...
Fxd Interest Acc	253.20	267.10	-2.50	
International Acc	278.10	293.40	-5.90	..
Managed Acc	233.90	246.80	-5.20	..
Property Acc	229.20	241.80	-0.10	..
Money Acc	150.10	158.40	...	...
Spec Mkt Acc	256.70	270.80	-3.90	..
Japan Equity Acc	128.00	135.10	+0.40	..
N Amer Acc	174.60	184.20	-0.20	...
Pacific Acc	186.40	196.70	-3.00	...
European Acc	188.70	199.10	-3.60	..
PROVIDENT MUTUAL William Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 0LP 0438 739000				
Managed Ord	464.50	510.00	-5.70	..
Managed Initial	335.50	353.20	-4.10	...
Equity Ord	730.50	768.90	-17.20	...
Equity Init	505.80	532.40	-12.20	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	210.60	221.70	-2.60	..
I-Linked Gilt Init	152.30	160.30	-2.00	..
Oseas Equity Ord	402.20	423.40	-3.90	
Oseas Equity Init	278.40	293.10	-2.50	..
Property Ord	254.70	268.10	+0.30	..
Property Init	176.40	185.70	+0.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	291.30	306.50	-3.50	...
Fixed Int Init	201.60	212.20	-2.50	..
Deposit Ord	201.40	212.00	+0.10	..
Deposit Initial	139.40	146.70	...	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 071 405 9222				
Managed	353.00	367.80	-0.40	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FUNDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 071 548 3278				
Managed Fund	818.60	861.70	-16.60	...
Equity Fund	1548.8	1630.4	-45.10	
Intl Fund	638.20	671.80	-6.50	...
Fixed Interest	594.20	625.50	-7.60	
Property Fund	429.30	450.90	+0.30	
Cash Fund	356.90	375.70	+0.10	..
Pacific Basin	396.20	417.10	-4.30	...
N American Fd	247.00	260.00	+0.40	...
Euro Fund	267.60	281.70	-6.20	...
Balanced Fund	159.70	168.20	-3.30	...
Strategic Fund	168.00	176.90	-3.10	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 0733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)	£812.60	...	+25.70	...
-do- Acc	506.30	533.00	+15.00	...
Op Prop	468.40	493.10	+3.30	..
Op Equity	936.70	986.00	-20.70	...
Op High Yield	604.30	636.20	-6.60	...
Op Managed	831.10	874.90	-0.30	...
Op Deposit	383.20	403.40	+0.40	...
Inc Gth	332.00	349.50	-9.50	...
Japan Smlr	274.40	288.90	+3.60	...
Managed Gth	277.90	292.60	+3.90	...
Gilt	87.20	91.80	-1.10	...
British	383.80	404.00	-34.00	...
Global Bond	120.00	126.40	+0.70	
Global (35.34)	177.30	186.70	-0.30	...
Gold Share	95.50	100.60	-4.60	..
High Income	329.30	346.70	-7.90	..
Income	460.50	484.80	-15.10	
Japan	458.60	482.80	-5.40	...
UK Smlr Cos	351.00	369.50	-0.30	...
Mngd Growth	502.30	528.80	-8.70	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 051 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	1001.8	1060.1	-9.30	...
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	399.30	420.30	-3.70	...
Equity Fund	565.00	594.70	-11.10	...
Property Fund	316.30	332.90	...	..
International	507.40	534.10	+2.30	...
Pacific Basin	315.90	332.50	+2.60	..
United States	261.50	275.20	-0.10	...
Gilt Fund	376.10	395.80	-4.20	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 0708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	787.40	833.30	-7.20	2.10
Deposit Fund (2)	360.00	381.00	+0.30	5.77
Gilt Fund	539.50	570.90	-8.10	7.54
Global Equity Fd	250.00	264.60	-0.70	...
Property Fund (46)	98.10	103.90	+1.90	6.01
AG Bond Fund	171.00	181.00	-1.60	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 041 248 2323				
Equity	603.40	635.20	-11.60	...
Fixed Interest	392.50	413.20	-2.90	...
Index-Linked	207.40	218.40	-2.60	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
International	482.40	507.80	-3.60	...
Property	286.10	301.20	+4.60	...
Cash	224.30	236.10	+0.10	...
Managed	481.80	507.20	-3.70	..
Cap Gteed Bd	114.90	121.00	-2.40	..
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 031 556 9101				
Cash	176.88	186.19	+0.11	..
Index-Linked	169.20	178.10	-1.90	
Fixed Interest	185.30	195.10	-2.00	..
Mixed	263.60	277.50	-2.40	..
UK Equity	247.80	260.90	-4.50	...
International	271.10	285.30	-1.60	..
American	265.50	279.50	+0.30	...
Japan	246.50	259.50	+3.10	...
European	254.00	267.30	-2.30	...
Pacific	407.70	429.10	-2.10	..
Technology	370.50	390.00	+2.10	...
Currncy/Currncy	237.70	250.20	+1.50	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 031 225 2211				
Property	205.60	216.50	+0.10	...
UK Equity	372.90	392.60	-8.60	..
American	268.70	282.90	+0.40	..
Pacific	401.80	423.10	-6.80	...
European	482.70	508.30	-8.90	..
International	333.80	351.50	-4.60	..
Fixed Interest	254.00	267.50	-3.10	...
Index Linked	206.20	217.10	-3.20	...
Deposit	189.40	199.40	+0.10	...
Managed	299.90	315.80	-5.10	...
Worldwide	136.30	143.50	-2.10	...
Pen Worldwide	146.40	154.20	-2.50	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 041 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	1699.8	1752.4		
Safety Fund	245.10	258.10	-3.00	...
Growth Fund	240.30	253.00	-3.40	..
Opportunity Fd	235.30	247.70	-3.90	...
Cash Fund	170.40	179.40	+0.10	...
European Fund	353.20	371.80	-8.70	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	207.90	218.90	-2.40	...
Index-Linked Fd	190.00	200.00	-2.60	...
International Fd	309.70	326.00	-3.50	...
North American	254.50	267.90	+2.30	..
Property Fund	121.80	128.30	...	...
UK Equity	253.20	266.60	-5.30	...
UK Smaller	251.50	264.80	-1.20	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 031 556 9181				
Mixed	280.90	295.80	-2.70	...
Equity	295.10	310.70	-4.70	...
International	304.40	320.50	-1.10	...
Property	220.00	231.70	+2.60	...
Fixed Interest	223.50	235.40	-1.30	...
Index Linked	187.00	196.90	-2.50	..
Cash	182.90	192.60	+0.10	
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	839.40	893.00	-8.10	...
Cash Fund	330.80	348.60	+0.30	..
Property Fund	240.90	256.30	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	1009.1	1073.6	-5.70	...
Fxd Interest Fund	471.10	496.50	-2.70	...
International	454.30	483.30	-1.50	...
High Income	743.20	790.70	-11.90	..
Far East	667.00	709.60	-2.90	...
North American	588.60	626.20	-0.20	...
Special Sits	686.20	730.00	-9.90	...
Technology	565.10	601.20	+0.10	...
Extra Income Fd	400.40	426.00	-7.20	...
Gilt Fund	485.70	516.80	-3.10	...
European	158.10	168.20	-0.20	...
Adventurous Mg	240.90	253.60	-1.30	...
Secure Mgd	151.90	161.60	-1.00	...
Equity Inc Dist	125.80	133.90	-1.30	4.41
North American	119.40	127.00	-0.80	5.03
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 031 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1018.3	1018.3	+1.70	...
Inv Pol 2	927.20	976.10	-41.00	..
Inv Pol 3	889.70	936.70	+1.60	...
Inv Cash	305.50	321.70	+0.10	...
Mixed Fund	477.80	503.30	-3.80	...
Equity Fund	562.80	592.50	-6.50	...
Property Fund	224.60	236.50	...	...
International Fd	525.90	553.60	+0.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	395.30	416.20	-2.80	...
Indexed Stock Fd	207.30	218.30	-2.90	...
Cash Fund	222.30	234.10	+0.10	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 0703 334411				
Managed Acc	393.30	414.00	-3.50	...
Equity Acc	464.80	489.20	-8.70	...
International Acc	367.50	386.80	+0.30	...
Property	227.80	239.70	+3.10	...
Royal Trust Mg	254.10	267.40	-1.90	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 031 225 2552				
Cash	262.40	276.30	+0.20	
Equity	1034.1	1088.6	-38.70	..
European	173.20	182.40	-3.40	...
Far East	188.50	198.50	-0.90	...
Fixed Interest	415.70	437.60	-4.90	...
Index Linked	215.50	226.90	-1.80	...
International	654.10	688.60	-6.10	...
Managed	728.60	767.00	-19.40	...
Nth American	150.70	158.70	...	...
Property	337.20	355.00	+0.60	...
Pensions				
Cash	405.40	426.80	+0.30	...
Equity	1500.3	1579.3	-61.40	...
European	208.60	219.60	-4.60	...
Far East	152.90	161.00	-1.10	...
Fixed Interest	561.70	591.30	-5.90	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Index Linked	298.70	314.50	-2.40	
International	930.40	979.40	-10.20	...
Managed	1028.5	1082.7	-29.90	...
Nth American	190.00	200.10	+0.30	
Property	440.40	463.60	+0.10	..
Stock Exchange	232.90	245.20	-7.10	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 0403 232323				
Managed Fund	688.50	724.90	-13.80	..
Equity Fund	911.30	959.30	-28.90	..
Fixed Interest Fd	437.90	461.00	-5.50	...
Index-Linked Fd	323.00	340.00	-3.60	...
Property Fund	491.00	516.90	+0.30	...
International Fd	670.30	705.60	-5.40	...
N American Fd	256.10	269.60	+0.30	..
Far East Fund	254.10	267.50	-1.40	...
Deposit Fund	288.60	303.80	+0.20	...
International Bd	£93.15	..	+3.07	...
Worldwide Bond	165.80	174.60	+0.10	
Worldwide Fincl	80.10	84.40	..	...
Worldwide Tech	95.40	100.50	+0.10	...
European	169.80	178.80	-2.40	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	686.80	723.10	-6.10	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	515.30	548.40		..
Property Growth				
Property Fund	£563.50		+0.40	...
-do- Acc	£527.40		+0.40	
Agricultural Fd	£796.50	...	+0.50	...
-do- Acc	£768.20	...	+0.50	
Abbey Nat Fd	£424.10	..	+0.40	
Abbey Nat Acc	£449.80	..	+0.30	
Investment Fd	£364.80	...	-6.90	...
Investment (A)	£350.70	...	-6.60	...
Equity	£1320.0	..	-39.60	..
Equity Acc	£1266.7	..	-38.10	...
Money Fund	£458.30	...	+0.30	...
-do- Acc	£439.00		+0.40	...
Actuarial Fd	£606.30	..	-11.80	
Gilt-Edged Fd	£409.10	..	-4.80	...
-do- Acc	£409.10	...	-4.80	...
Retire Annuity	£1159.9		...	...
Immed Annuity	£315.50	..	...	...
Bldg Soc Life	£220.30	..	+0.10	
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 0256 841414				
Growth Account	£1552.6	..	-37.90	
Managed Acc	£878.00	...	+11.80	...
Equity Account	£1254.8		+18.20	..
Mngd Fund Acc	405.70	427.00	+5.70	...
Equity Fund Acc	550.90	579.90	+8.40	...
Prop Fund Acc	241.20	253.90	+4.70	..
Fixed Int Fd Acc	336.10	353.80	-3.70	...
Money Fund Acc	216.00	227.40	+0.10	..
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	219.70	231.30	-1.10	...
Pers Pens Acct	£1974.4	...	-19.70	...
Pens Mngd Acct	917.90	966.20	-9.60	...
Pens Guarantee	234.90	247.30	+0.40	...
Pens Equity	354.70	373.40	-4.20	...
Pens Property	271.20	285.50	+3.90	...
Pens Fixed Int	305.10	321.20	-7.10	...
Pens Intl	254.80	268.20	-1.10	...
Pens Money	229.20	241.30	+0.30	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	205.70	216.50	-3.30	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0272 426911				
Managed Acc	940.60	990.40	-19.60	...
Property Acc	364.40	383.60	-4.10	...
Equity Acc	1517.0	1596.9	-45.20	..
Fixed Int Acc	411.10	432.80	-7.20	...
Index-Linked Acc	213.00	224.30	-3.10	..
Cash Acc	302.00	317.90	+0.20	..
Amer Equity Acc	375.20	395.00	+3.80	...
Japan Acc	322.60	339.60	+3.20	...
Pacific Acc	403.90	425.20	-4.00	..
Far Eastern Acc	933.20	982.40	-4.10	..
International Acc	627.70	660.80	+2.50	...
Distribution Fund	300.20	316.00	-6.30	5.54
European	195.50	205.80	-4.80	..
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE 0264 345678				
Managed Fund	289.50	304.80	-6.10	...
Property Fund	199.40	210.00	...	
Fixed Interest Fd	232.50	244.80	-2.10	...
Money Fund	195.30	205.70	+0.10	...
Equity Fund	388.10	408.70	-8.80	
TARGET LIFE The Exchange, 66 High Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. 0296 394000				
Deposit	243.80	256.70	+0.10	..
Financial Ser I	52.30	56.50	-1.50	
Fixed Interest	329.80	347.30	-1.40	..
Gold	96.30	101.40	-3.30	..
Managed	645.40	679.50	-12.50	
Mngd Growth	206.50	217.50	-1.60	...
Mngd Opp	218.00	229.50	-0.30	...
Property	294.40	309.90	..	...
Residential Prop	95.40	100.50	-0.10	...
TSB American	215.90	227.40	-1.40	...
TSB Brit Gwth	859.80	905.10	-35.70	...
TSB European	286.60	301.70	-5.40	...
TSB Income	427.50	450.10	-15.90	..
TSB Intl	444.70	468.20	-4.30	...
TSB Intl Inc	298.80	314.60	-1.90	...
TSB Pacific	466.50	491.10	-1.70	..
TSB Prem Inc	276.50	288.90	-2.90	
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 0952 292929				
Managed Bond	730.30	769.50	-7.50	..
Money Fund	309.60	325.90	+0.30	...
Equity Fund	640.50	674.90	+4.80	..
Fixed Interest	289.40	305.00	-4.30	...
Property Fund	354.00	373.00	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	616.30	649.40	...	...
Income	781.10	823.10	-22.60	..
International Gth	679.70	716.20	+1.10	..
Capital Fund	676.80	713.20	-7.60	..
Recovery Fund	697.60	735.40	-5.70	...
Japan & General	292.70	308.40	+1.70	...

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INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c:						
Typical	0.38	0.38	0.30	1,000	7 day	——
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	3.18	3.18	2.54	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
"	3.18	3.18	2.54	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	2.62	2.62	2.09	10,000-no max	1 mth	Local Brnch
"	2.86	2.85	2.28	10,000-no max	6 mth	Local Brnch
Midland	3.18	3.18	2.54	10,000-100,000	1 mth	0742 528655
" "	3.28	3.28	2.62	10,000-100,000	3 mth	0742 528655
NatWest	3.18	3.18	2.54	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
" "	3.18	3.18	2.54	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MMC	2.62	2.68	2.12	2,500‡	none	031-442 77 7
Barclays Prime a/c	1.70	1.70	1.36	2,500‡	none	0604 252891
Co-operative Ultra	0.19	0.19	0.15	500‡	none	071 626 8543
Citibank	3.56	3.62	2.90	2,000‡	none	0800 555894
Lloyds HICA	0.56	0.56	0.45	500‡	none	0272 433372
Midland HICA	1.12	1.12	0.90	2,000‡	none	0742 528655
Abbey National HICA	1.19	1.19	0.93	1,000‡	none	Local Branch
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	1.13	1.13	0.90	2,000‡	none	031-556 8555
TSB Bank Intst Cheque Acct	1.50	1.50	1.20	2,000‡	none	071-600 8020
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	0.75	0.75	0.60	50+	none	——
Best buy — largest socs:						
B						
Britannia	4.61	4.61	3.69	2,000 min	Postal	——
Birmingham Mid	4.76	4.76	3.81	10,000 min	Postal	——
Bradford & Bingley	5.14	5.14	4.11	10,000 min	30 day	——
Asset (Bristol&West)	5.48	5.48	4.38	50,000 min	90 day	——
Alliance & Leics	5.48	5.48	4.38	50,000 min	1 year	——
Best buy — all socs:						
Skipton	4.88	4.88	3.90	2,000 min	Postal	——
Northern Rock	5.44	5.44	4.35	50,000 min	30 day	——
The Nottingham Asset (Bristol&West)	4.80	4.80	3.84	25,000 min	60 day	——
	5.51	5.51	4.41	25,000 min	90 day	——
Nottingham Imp	5.63	5.63	4.50	40,000 min	1 year	——

Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneyline - call 071 404 5768 for further details

NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c¹	3.25	2.44	1.95	500-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c²	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-4,99	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond³	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3 mth	0253 766151
7th Index Lnkd⁴	3.00	3.00	3.00	100-10,000	8 day	091-386 4900
41th Issue Cert⁵	5.40	5.40	5.40	100-10,000	8 day	091-386 4900
Yearly Plan⁶	*5.40*	*5.40*	*5.40*	*20-400/mth*	*14 day*	*091-386 4900*
Children's Bond	7.35	7.35	7.35	25-1,000		
Gen Ext Rate⁷	3.51	3.51	3.51			
Capital Bond⁸	7.25	5.44	4.35	100-250,000	8 days	041-649-4555
1st Option Bond⁹	*4.50*	*4.50*	*3.60*	*1,000-250,000*		
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Consolidated Lf	*4.30*	*4.30*	*3.88*	*2,000 min*	*1 yrs*	*Figures from*
Prosperity	4.78	4.78	4.06	25,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
Financial Ass	5.20	5.20	4.42	50,000 min	3 yrs	Vere
Financial Ass	5.65	5.65	4.80	50,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5768
Eurolife	6.00	6.00	5.10	10,000 min	5 yrs	for details

RATES		HOLIDAY RATES	£ buys
RPI (Nov 92-93)	+1.4%	Spanish Pesetas:	201.50
Bank Base Rate	5.25%	French Francs:	8.45
Personal Loan	26%	Greek Drachmas:	365.50
Credit Card	25 - 27%	Italian Lire:	2415.00

TESSA	CAR (%)	£3,000 val 1 year on	Transfer penalty	Minimum lowstat	Telephone number
Hinkley & Rug	7.60	£3,228.00	90 day loss	£3,000	0455 251234
Dunfermline	7.55	£3,226.50	1mths notice&loss	£3,000	0383 721621
Progressive	7.50	£3,225.00	£25+1mths notice	£1	0232 244826
National Count	7.25	£3,217.50	90 day loss	£3,000	0372 742211
Shepshed .	7.25	£3,217.50	£25	£1	0509 503302

¹ 2.5% for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free. Instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less ² Additional holdings up to £20,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates ³ Tax free *Interest taxable paid gross &higher rates for larger sums ⁵ Guaranteed over the rate of inflation ⁶ 0.5% net bonus for amounts £50,000+

Compiled by LUCY DUPUIS

LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Alliance & Leics. 0273 775454	3.99	to £250K	80	Rate shown after 3.65 % discount for 12mths
Bristol & West 0272 294271	4.89%	neg.	95	Rate shown after 3% discount for 1 year
BANKS				
Midland 0742 528661	5.95	to £100K	90	Rate is fixed to 31.1.95
BANKS				
TSB 021 600 6140	5.64	neg.	75	Rate shown after 2% discount for 12mths

Source. Bisy's MortgageMatch. Further info: Bisy's Guides 0753 880482

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Poor monitoring is not the only reason why pension transfers may be mis-sold

From Mr John E. Wild

Sir, As a financial adviser, representing Albany Life, I cannot defend mis-selling of pension transfers. This happens because individuals either have inadequate training, or their activity has been improperly monitored. However, there are other areas for criticism as well.

In his letter (January 29), Mike Brown of the National Association of Pension Funds states: "Many members of the NAPF Ltd had gone to great lengths to discourage people from leaving their schemes." In preserved pension cases, are such great lengths demonstrably in the best interests of *the individual scheme member*? They are clearly in the interest of the scheme as a whole, and its fund managers who naturally wish to retain the investment.

There is another aspect which has attracted little attention. In preserved pension cases I have examined, whether transferred or not, the transfer value offered has typically been about two-thirds of the current fund value. This reduction is not justified by the charges involved. It would compensate the fund for the loss of investment. Some individual members may, on a fair comparison, benefit from a transfer if the true fund value *can be withdrawn, rather than* the much lower transfer value usually offered.

This is a scandal which requires investigation.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. WILD, 1A Virginia Road,
Gillingham, Kent.

Pointing the finger at credit-card fraud

From Mr Barry Fergus, Director, Fraud Strategy, Barclays Bank

Sir, *The Times* has been very supportive of the banks' fight against credit-card fraud but I am afraid the Family Money editorial ("On the cards", January 29) was running slightly ahead of current plans.



Barclays is only evaluating the effectiveness of finger scanning as well as other methods of identification such as signature verification, which measures the way customers sign their name based on the pressure exerted and the time that is taken to sign.

We have no plans to introduce finger scanning at the present time and our recent pilot suggests there is still a lot more work to do before such a system could be relied upon not to reject genuine customers.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY FERGUS,
Director, Fraud Strategy, Barclays Bank, Barclaycard, Northampton.

Unclearing bank

From Mr Haydn J. Hopkins

Sir, Mr D. Cartwright, operations director, Barclays Bank, (Weekend Money Letters, January 22) rightly points out that recently installed counter terminals at Barclays Bank branches allow cash paid into a branch other than one's own to be cleared for withdrawal immediately. However, customers should be warned that when a deposit involving both cash and cheques is made, the usual clearing time of three days is still applicable. The only way to avoid such delay in clearing the cash would appear to be to conduct two separate transactions.

Yours faithfully,
HAYDN J. HOPKINS,
37 Birchwood Gardens, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

Student accounts

From Ms Alyson Mereoni Dawes

Sir, Like Mr Parker (Weekend Money letters, February 5), the Royal Bank of Scotland was eager for my custom at my Freshers Fair in Lancashire, and I duly opened a student account with my small LEA grant cheque.

When it came to transferring my account after graduating and returning home last July, I did not, however, fare so well. My local branch in Essex informed me that it was necessary to have a minimum of £500 a month in order to be their customer – despite the fact that I was an established customer with that bank and had an account in credit (even after three years at college). They were unsympathetic when I pointed out that as I had not yet found full-time employment I could not realistically meet their financial requirements.

After speaking to a much more sympathetic graduate banker at Lloyd's Bank, I have finally decided to close my student account. I believe, however, that it will cost me £10 for the pleasure.

Yours faithfully,
ALYSON MEREONI DAWES,
166 Wivenhoe Road, Alresford, Colchester, Essex.

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EXAMPLES OF PAST AND POTENTIAL PRIVATISATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Key: Past Privatisations / *Potential Privatisations*

EUROPE:
UK: British Airways, British Gas, British Telecom, National Power, 13 Electricity Cos., 10 Water Cos., *British Rail*
FRANCE: BNP, Crédit Local de France, Elf-Aquitaine, Rhône Poulenc, *AGF, Crédit Lyonnais, GAN, Pechiney, Renault, Thomson*
GERMANY: VIAG, *Deutsche Bundesbahn, Deutsche Telekom, Lufthansa*
ITALY: Banca Commerciale Italiana, Credito Italiano, IMI, *AGIP, ENEL, INA, Telecom Italia*
NETHERLANDS: DSM, *PTT Nederlands, EGCO, TOT*
SPAIN: Argentaria, Endesa, Repsol, Telefonica, *Iberia*
BELGIUM: *Belgacom*
DENMARK: Girobank, *Tele Danmark*
SWEDEN: Celsius, *Nordbanken, Swedforest, Televerket, Vattenfall*

ASIA PACIFIC:
SINGAPORE: Singapore Airlines, Singapore Telecom, *Port of Singapore Authority, Public Utilities Board, Singapore Food Ind*
MALAYSIA: Malaysia Telecom, Proton, Tenaga, *Petronas Gas, Pos Malaysia*
THAILAND: Thai Airways, *Bangchak*
HONG KONG/CHINA: Hong Kong Telecom, *Numerous China 'H' Shares*
TAIWAN: China Steel, *China Casualty*
BELGIUM: *Belgacom*
JAPAN: East Japan Railway, NTT, *JR Freight, JR Tokai Railway, JR West Railway*
AUSTRALIA: Commonwealth Bank of Australia, GIO of Australia, *Australia Telecom, Qantas*

Nth & Sth AMERICA:
CANADA: Nova-Scotia Power, Petro Canada
BRAZIL: CSN, Usiminas, *Cemig, Light, Telebras*
ARGENTINA: Telecom Argentina, Telefonica Argentina, *Edenor, Edesur*

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
5] Belgrave Rd, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1HZ
0895 259 783

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Grofund Amer	172.90	182.00	- 0.20	...
Grofund Equity	283.00	297.70	- 7.50	1.19
Grofund Euro	205.10	215.90	- 1.20	...
Grofund Expt Bal	122.60	127.10	- 1.20	0.91
Grofund Gilt	81.86	83.56	+ 0.29	4.09
Grofund Japan	182.70	192.40	+ 2.50	...

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
Equity & Law Hse, Corpn St, Coventry
0203 553 251

General Acc	544.60	579.40	-17.30	2.10
General Inc	490.60	522.00	-15.60	2.10
UK Growth Acc	369.80	393.50	-13.40	2.50
UK Growth Inc	299.00	278.80	- 8.30	2.30
Higher Inc Acc	692.60	736.90	-27.50	3.21
Higher Inc Inc	414.30	440.70	-16.40	3.21
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	193.20	206.10	- 1.40	5.48
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	98.80	104.30	- 0.70	5.48
Nth America	264.30	281.40	- 0.55	0.15
Far East	382.80	406.50	- 0.80	...
Europe	277.90	295.60	- 7.50	0.51
Brit Blend	73.20	77.88	- 2.67	2.42
Brit Fixd/Gilt Acc	104.60	111.30	- 3.80	4.00
Brit Fixd/Gilt Inc	74.41	84.40	- 2.83	4.00
Global Opps	85.83	91.31	- 1.64	...
Balanced Acc	56.14	59.73†	- 1.59	2.18
Balanced Inc	55.64	59.20†	- 1.58	2.18

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
80 Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth 0345 717 373

High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	139.70	148.10	- 1.40	5.40
High Inc Equity	178.50	189.80†	- 3.80	3.84
Worldwide Bond	275.1u	291.70†	+ 4.00	3.60
Capital Growth				
American Growth	317.80	339.60†	- 1.20	.93
Asian Pacific	401.20	426.80	- 0.80	...
Assets & Earnings	286.40	304.80	- 3.30	1.70
Commdty & Energy	133.30	141.80	- 1.50	.39
1992 Enterprise	98.29	105.10	- 1.20	1.38
Euro Capital Inc	133.70	142.90	- 1.00	.66
General	264.30	280.80†	- 7.40	2.09
Japan	131.80	140.80	+ 2.20	...
Mastertrust	151.40	161.80	- 1.20	0.48
UK Growth Dist	151.80	161.40	- 1.00	1.64
US Emerging Cos	146.50	155.80	+ 1.30	...
Income & Growth	412.80	439.10	+11.70	2.99
Extrainc	78.53	84.49	- 1.76	1.99
International	124.20	132.10	- 0.50	.14

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
14 Melville St, Edinburgh EH3 7NS
031 220 0733

UK Small Cos	1868.0	1943.0	+ 7.00	...

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
18 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ
0800 526 992

Aberdeen Portfolio	65.70	66.88†	- 1.31	0.75
Amer Inc & Growth	46.80	49.35	- 0.51	0.63
Cash	50.35	50.35	+ 0.04	4.77
European	108.10	115.60	- 2.00	...
European Income	103.70	109.90	- 1.10	1.39
Exempt	1111.8	1162.5†	-22.40	3.27
Extra Income	58.39	61.28	- 1.65	4.30
Far East Exg Jpn	125.00	131.60	- 1.30	0.48
Fixed Interest	27.11	28.94	- 0.12	6.37
Fund Inv TR	188.10	200.80	- 9.40	0.84
Japan	202.10	215.20	+ 3.40	...
Latin American	88.01	93.49	- 2.93	0.54
Pacific	79.36	85.00	- 0.27	0.32
Property Share	80.82	86.28†	- 0.73	1.52
UK Emerging Cos	73.78	78.76†	- 0.86	1.58
UK Growth	47.51	51.22	- 1.95	2.30
World Growth	80.98	86.44	- 1.38	0.63

ACUMA FUND MANAGERS LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex 0277 690 336

UK Equity Income	98.68	104.92†	- 2.57	2.78
UK Equity Growth	88.24	93.87	- 2.12	2.00
European	66.89	73.29	- 1.38	0.61
Nth American	69.83	74.29	- 0.03	0.94
Far Eastern	76.85	81.75	+ 0.71	0.31
Money	65.31	65.31†	+ 0.04	3.78

AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
20 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF
031 549 3232

British Growth	75.61	80.43	- 1.80	2.12
British Income	84.04	89.40	- 2.47	2.99
Select Portfolio	42.52	98.42	+ 0.40	...

ALLCHURCHES UNV MGMT SVS LTD
101 King's Road Brentwood CM14 4DR
0452 385 958

Amlife Income	81.34	86.30	- 1.50	1.87
Income Builder Inc	71.99	76.58	- 2.06	2.61

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Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	255.30	272.90	- 8.20	2.77
Capital	460.90	492.00	-11.90	1.61
Balanced	741.80	792.70	-25.60	2.29
Accumulator	1322.0	1413.0	-41.00	2.71
Income Trusts				
American Income	90.75	54.25†	- 0.14	3.28
High Income	468.70	473.60	-13.10	3.27
Equity Income	252.20	269.50	- 6.70	3.24
High Yield	226.60	295.60	- 9.10	3.18
Govt Securities	35.46	37.42	- 0.30	4.86
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	170.20	148.80	- 2.30	0.24
European Growth	35.27	37.52	- 0.39	0.43
International	170.70	182.40†	- 2.40	0.32
Japan	223.50	238.40†	+ 2.70	0.01
Pacific	461.10	492.00†	- 2.00	0.16
Secs of America	445.00	473.80†	- 2.00	0.58
Worlde Asset Val	38.37	53.84	- 0.46	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	568.70	607.90	-14.20	2.06
Conv & Gilt	51.31	54.89†	- 0.99	3.54
Smaller Cos	191.80	206.00†	- 1.20	1.14
2nd Smaller Cos	185.60	198.20	- 0.90	1.12
Recovery	156.00	166.70	- 4.20	1.67
Met Min & City	163.70	174.90	- 3.60	0.71
Ocean Earnings	376.30	402.20†	-10.80	1.95

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Manor Royal, Crawley RH10 2QP 0293 525 911

Cntrcsd Out Pens	107.80	111.90	...	1.45
Foundtn Pens Pens	69.29	71.98	...	4.00

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
28 St John's Sq, London EC1M 4AE
071 251 6767

Capital	75.63	80.45†	- 1.15	2.52
International	65.98	70.19	- 1.07	0.48

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
1 Rutland Court, Edinburgh EH3 8EY
031 223 4242

America	310.30	334.90	- 0.10	...
Bond	126.30	132.70	- 2.00	3.91
Brit Smlr Cos	108.70	115.60	- 0.30	0.90
Conv & Gen	68.54	73.15	- 0.48	4.36
Energy	466.10	505.10	- 1.30	0.22
Europe	238.90	254.00	- 2.10	0.44
Euro Smlr Cos	106.30	113.10	- 0.50	0.84
Income Growth	377.20	402.60	-10.20	3.80
Japan	340.20	361.80	+ 4.30	...
Pacific	124.70	132.50	- 2.80	0.61
UK Smlr Cos	54.92	58.43	+ 0.10	0.75

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
36 Queen St, London EC4R 1BN 071 489 8623

Brit & Overs	308.90	325.20	+ 0.40	1.12
Capital Gwth	121.00	127.40	- 3.50	2.10
Worlde Opps	206.20	217.10	+ 1.10	0.44

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
11 Broadway, Stratford E15 4BJ 081 534 5844

Balanced Trusts				
Bst Inv Fd Inc	373.50	389.00	+11.60	2.22
European Bd Inc	99.19	102.70†	- 0.10	7.18
Exempt	80.81	86.20	- 2.97	3.59
Financial	81.64	87.31	- 2.38	1.83
500.00	503.40	538.40	- 5.50	1.99
General	291.10	311.40	- 8.90	2.17
Property	247.70	264.90	+ 0.20	5.53
Trustee	200.40	214.30†	- 5.40	1.69
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.40	100.40†	- 0.10	4.58
Extra Income	127.90	136.80	- 3.30	3.66
Gilt & Fxd Int	62.95	65.05	- 0.70	7.66
Income	577.20	617.40†	-15.80	3.61
Income Builder	71.23	75.78	- 1.91	4.23
Intl Income	72.79	77.44†	- 0.98	2.63
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	122.60	130.80†	- 3.90	2.15
Leisure	129.00	138.00	- 2.90	1.01
Recovery	447.20	478.30	-13.80	2.10
Smlr Cos Inc	46.90	50.10	- 0.01	1.74
Special Sits	207.10	228.50	- 9.00	1.55
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	140.70	149.30	...	0.31
Aust Acc	287.50	305.80	- 1.10	1.16
Aust Inc	179.90	191.40	- 0.70	1.16
Euro Gwth Inc	147.50	156.30	- 0.30	0.46
Japan & Gen Inc	191.00	202.20	+ 2.70	...
Japan Spec Sits	83.43	88.38	+ 1.76	...

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 158, Rochesham, Kent BR3 4XQ
081 658 4082

American Growth	104.40	110.70	- 0.30	...
Amer Smlr Cos Inc	136.60	146.40	+ 0.60	...
Cash Trust	98.54	98.54	+ 0.03	4.40
Convertibles	65.08	69.60	- 0.14	5.60
Eastern	326.30	354.10	- 10.10	1.60
Equity Income	96.26	102.40†	- 3.40	4.90
European Growth	297.00	315.60	- 6.00	1.50
Europe	218.60	230.00	- 2.50	1.50
German Growth	71.57	76.15	- 0.48	0.70
Global Bond	70.82	74.78†	+ 0.27	5.30
Global Growth	136.30	145.60	- 2.00	...
Japan Growth	221.50	238.00	+ 3.00	...
Japan Smaller	164.80	192.30	+ 0.50	...
Korea Trust	83.62	92.57	+ 2.20	...
Pantfolio	142.20	151.90	- 3.00	3.00
UK Growth	98.70	105.00	- 2.30	2.60

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
36-34 Old Street, London EC1V 9HL
071 250 3000

Intl Gwth Port Inc	85.29	90.73†	+ 1.68	...
Special Opper Inc	59.82	62.57†	+ 1.33	.

BREWIN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD
5 Gilmgate St, London EC1A 9DE 071 236 6441

Special Sits	191.70	205.00	- 0.20	0.46
Dividend	87.12	93.18†	- 2.64	4.20
Int Gth & Inc	233.60	250.00†	- 5.00	2.41
UK & Gen	47.67	50.98	- 1.58	1.56
Fund of Funds	71.30	76.28	+ 0.01	...

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
50 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 6HR

041 223 6820				
Balanced Growth	113.83	121.74	- 3.81	1.27
Smaller Cos	112.45	120.27	- 0.79	0.97
Higher Yield	49.15	52.59†	- 0.88	2.43
American Gth Inc	77.57	82.97†	+ 1.01	...
European Growth	139.16	148.85	- 0.54	...
Global Bond Inc	31.20	33.63	- 0.18	4.44
Managd Pfolio Inc	46.64	49.89†	+ 0.01	1.02

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
107 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL
071 488 1256

Short Dated Gilt	69.90	70.85	- 0.46	4.92

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 185, Manchester M60 0AH
061 837 5060

Environ	160.80	171.10	- 2.00	1.25
Uk Growth	173.90	185.00†	- 5.00	1.63
UK Income	144.40	153.70	- 4.10	3.64

CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
High St, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA
0707 651 122

Can Gen Dist	194.90	206.80†	- 5.40	1.75
-do- Income Dist	118.60	125.70	- 3.60	4.25
Gilt & Fxd Int	43.72	46.34†	- 0.66	5.87

For Cannon see Lincoln National

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AF
061 236 5685 Exmp: 061 236 5685 Dlg: 061 236 5362

American & Gen	158.40	165.40	+ 0.50	...
European Inc	88.14	94.92	- 1.88	0.48
Smaller Cos (4-1)	87.75	93.36	- 0.56	1.35
Growth	463.10	495.30	-10.80	1.78
Income & Growth	436.10	464.00†	-15.00	3.24
Japan & Gen	76.14	81.01	+ 0.04	...
Master Portfolio	112.16	119.41†	-287.0	1.37

CAPITAL HOUSE UNIT TST MGRS
Capital House, Festival Square, Edinburgh
0131 228 4477 Dealings: 0800 833 554

American Gwth Tst	39.28	42.01	- 0.06	0.87
Cash Income	50.44	50.44	+ 0.04	5.09
European Gwth	48.96	43.25	- 0.60	0.81
Income & Gwth Inc	30.22	32.33	- 1.05	1.62
Intnl Gwth	33.06	35.35	- 0.27	0.73
Japan Gwth	28.50	30.48	- 0.61	...
Managed Tst Inc	51.21	54.76	- 1.16	0.48
Oriental Opps Inc	168.90	180.60	- 3.30	0.56
Property Shares	49.70	53.15	- 0.34	1.53
Smaller Cos	34.31	36.69	- 1.30	1.44
UK Growth Tst	37.42	39.32	- 0.96	2.57
Formerly Brown Shipley				
European Inc	30.44	28.27	- 0.51	0.58
European Acc	37.45	39.37	- 0.53	0.38
Financial	164.90	176.30	- 6.20	2.31
Foundation	97.71	104.50	- 2.50	2.44
German	49.63	53.08	- 0.83	0.07
High Income	82.62	88.36	- 2.13	5.78
Income	144.10	154.10	- 6.60	1.57
Intl Growth	39.09	42.44	- 0.55	0.15
Far East	382.80	406.50	- 0.80	...
Europe	277.90	295.60	- 7.50	0.51
Brit Blend	73.20	77.88	- 2.67	2.42
Brit Fixd/Gilt Acc	104.60	111.30	- 3.80	4.00
Brit Fixd/Gilt Inc	74.41	84.40	- 2.83	4.00
Global Opps	85.83	91.31	- 1.64	...
Balanced Acc	56.14	59.73†	- 1.59	2.18
Balanced Inc	55.64	59.20†	- 1.58	2.18

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
5 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7BH
071 606 9708

Cazenove Portfolio	85.58	91.45†	- 1.70	2.11
American Portfolio	93.07	99.30	- 0.66	1.00
European Portfolio	96.86	103.53	- 3.35	0.97
Japanese Portfolio	72.08	76.59	+ 1.14	...
Pacific Portfolio	156.56	168.35	+ 0.20	0.69
UK Inc & Growth	78.22	83.78	- 1.83	3.48
Utility & Bond	59.51	60.25	- 2.27	5.85

CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD
5 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7BA 071 332 5000

UK General Tst	67.44	71.74	- 2.57	2.70
Global Tst	...	...	...	...
Recovery Tst	...	...	...	...

CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD
151 Farringdon Rd, London EC1R 3AD
071 837 7667

Intl Growth	153.60	166.21	- 1.42	...
UK Growth	117.55	126.76	- 0.00	1.01
UK Income	121.03	131.08	+ 1.22	3.56

CHARTERHOUSE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
Chartered Accountants, 1 Paternoster Row, Sheffield S1 2GW
0742 768 682

Growth Inc	60.84	64.72†	- 2.07	2.50
High Income	35.73	38.01	- 1.01	4.50
Japan	37.53	39.92	+ 0.63	...
Smaller Cos Inc	34.12	36.29	- 0.10	2.10
Smaller Cos	35.50	37.76	- 0.11	2.10
North American	34.21	36.39	+ 0.08	0.50
European	37.95	40.37	- 0.52	0.40

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
1 White Hart Yd, London Bridge SE1 1NX
071 407 5966

Consistent UT	33.30	35.70†	- 0.80	4.15

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
1 King St, Manchester M60 3AH 0800 526 393

Growth	154.40	164.30	- 2.90	1.56
Income	79.28	84.35†	- 3.17	4.06
European	61.73	65.68	- 1.05	0.63
Recovery	143.83	152.46	- 6.93	1.46

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
78-80 Cornhill, London EC3V 3NJ 071 283 9494

Equity Dist	686.20	900.70†	...	3.40

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
0277 690 370

Fellowship Tst	75.87	80.72	- 2.01	1.76
Income	252.60	268.80	- 8.70	3.21
Smaller Cos	162.90	173.40†	+ 1.50	0.90
Inv Portfolio	81.44	86.64†	- 2.46	1.38
High Income Pen	71.54	76.22	- 2.53	4.40

DIMENSIONAL INST TST MGMT LTD
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XS
071 490 0777

Euro Small Cos	1540.5	1974.0	+11.50	...
Japan Small Cos	1272.6	1297.4	+41.30	...
UK Small Cos	1943.0	2022.2†	- 3.60	...
US Small Cos	1726.3	1773.0	+24.50	...

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
66 Wilson Street, London EC2A 2BL
071 377 8849

Disc Inc	205.60	216.40	+ 1.40	2.57

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
25, Rawelston Terrace, Edinburgh 031 315 2000

European Gwth	263.80	278.90	- 2.70	1.08
New Asia	249.60	270.50	- 4.90	0.19
Japan Growth	128.70	137.00	+ 1.70	...
Jap Smlr Co	535.20	568.20	+10.60	...
Nth Amer	259.60	274.90	+ 4.30	0.69
Pacific Asia Pac Bd	140.00	148.50	+ 2.90	0.42
UK Inc & Gwth	228.80	244.30	- 8.40	3.52

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ 0242 577 955

UK Balanced Inc	148.80	158.30	- 3.20	1.69
UK High Inc Inc	165.20	175.70	- 4.00	4.54
UK Pref & Fl Inc	63.43	67.26	- 0.74	4.66
Government Opps	85.90	91.38	- 1.95	1.34

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
37 Hanoverfield Terrace, Edinburgh
0345 090 526

American	125.40	133.20	- 0.30	0.15
Convertibles	25.76	27.37	- 0.34	6.03
Equity Income	141.60	150.50	- 5.50	3.32
Eurofund	45.02	48.56†	- 0.78	0.82
Financial	54.50	57.91	- 1.66	1.81
Growth & Inc	249.10	264.70†	- 9.90	2.83
High Dist	175.60	186.60	- 5.50	4.02
International	418.80	445.00	- 4.20	0.22
Income	101.60	108.50†	- 3.10	2.40
Far Eastern Gth	150.93	160.86	- 1.41	0.26
Global Bond	89.43	95.02	+ 0.85	5.63
Japan Growth	129.84	138.13	+ 2.67	...
North Amer Gth	166.80	177.45	- 1.25	...
Oriental Growth	92.27	98.16	- 1.44	0.30
Worldwide Growth	67.40	71.70	+ 0.11	0.25

CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD
Union Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN
0438 744 999

Growth Inc	60.84	64.72†	- 2.07	2.50
High Income	35.73	38.01	- 1.01	4.50
Japan	37.53	39.92	+ 0.63	...
Smaller Cos Inc	34.12	36.29	- 0.10	2.10
Smaller Cos	35.50	37.76	- 0.11	2.10
North American	34.21	36.39	+ 0.08	0.50
European	37.95	40.37	- 0.52	0.40

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966

Beckman Intl	91.51	96.77	- 1.32	1.73
Beck Bio-Tech	41.28	43.91	- 0.94	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	169.30	183.73	- 2.17	1.15
City Fin Assets	71.35	61.40	- 0.53	1.51
City Fin America	33.33	87.72	+ 0.39	...
City Fin Intl	84.72	89.18	- 0.09	0.45
City Fin Japan	172.85	181.95	+ 3.37	...
Fidars Gen Cap	296.30	312.00	- 3.70	2.13
Fidars Fin Inc	213.27	226.88	- 6.59	4.63
Buckley Wrld Gth	149.33	158.86	+ 1.07	0.63
Fairmist Cap Gth	153.52	161.66	+ 0.23	...
-do- Inc & Gth	125.23	131.82	- 2.02	1.90

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
10 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AJ 0392 412 144
Emerging Markets 63.06 66.91 + 0.49 ...

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0800 373 393

American Gwth	60.45	64.66	- 0.68	...
Asian Mngd Gwth	30.05	32.14	- 0.41	...
Dragon Gwth	80.38	85.97	- 2.07	0.29
Equity High Inc	88.84	94.50	- 3.17	3.22
European Gwth	50.37	53.59	- 0.73	0.64
Evergreen	32.52	34.78	+ 0.35	...
General Equity	164.70	176.10	- 5.30	1.97
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	27.13	28.72†	- 0.26	7.90
Japan Growth	51.82	55.92	+ 1.09	...
Pedigree Gwth	53.64	57.06	- 1.36	1.86
Ped Sm Cos Inc	34.62	36.83	- 1.34	0.56
Retirement Inc	28.09	30.20	- 0.93	4.90

COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
Chesham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY
0634 898 000

Capital	66.96	71.62	- 2.17	2.68
Income	63.02	67.40	- 2.34	3.69

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL LTD
Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park, Croydon CR0 2AQ 081 686 9588
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PFT FUNDS)

Income Funds				
Equity Inc	178.16	189.53	- 6.96	4.67
Fixed & Convertible	47.44	50.47†	- 1.36	5.63
Monthly Inc Plus	54.66	58.15	- 0.57	7.71
Preference Shares	53.85	57.29†	- 0.31	6.64
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	140.44	149.40†	- 4.90	5.50
Managed Fund	71.74	76.32	- 1.32	2.64
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	46.05	48.99	- 0.25	1.73
UK & General	82.02	87.26	- 3.22	2.48
UK Growth	143.98	153.17	- 5.17	1.56
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	190.67	202.84	- 3.98	...
Far Eastern Gth	150.93	160.86	- 1.41	0.26
Global Bond	89.43	95.02	+ 0.85	5.63
Japan Growth	129.84	138.13	+ 2.67	...
North Amer Gth	166.80	177.45	- 1.25	...
Oriental Growth	92.27	98.16	- 1.44	0.30
Worldwide Growth	67.40	71.70	+ 0.11	0.25

COMPUTER SERVICES UT MGRS LTD
Lutea Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN
0438 744 999

Growth Inc	60.84	64.72†	- 2.07	2.50
High Income	35.73	38.01	- 1.01	4.50
Japan	37.53	39.92	+ 0.63	...
Smaller Cos Inc	34.12	36.29	- 0.10	2.10
Smaller Cos	35.50	37.76	- 0.11	2.10
North American	34.21	36.39	+ 0.08	0.50
European	37.95	40.37	- 0.52	0.40

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
1 White Hart Yd, London Bridge SE1 1NX
071 407 5966

Consistent UT	33.30	35.70†	- 0.80	4.15

CROSBY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Bishopsgate House, 211 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4YR
071 623 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733

UK Specialist Trusts				
Investment Tst	76.23	80.99	- 3.79	0.25
Smaller Cos	34.80	36.97	- 0.18	1.43
Special Features	33.91	36.02	- 0.99	1.18
Accum Units)	40.42	42.94	- 1.18	1.18
General Funds				
N America Inc	94.62	98.91	- 2.84	1.68
Far East Inc	36.44	38.70	- 9.70	0.20
UK Divid Inc	185.64	197.49	+ 1.36	0.88

DIVIDEND & GROWTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BJ
071 606 9808 Dealing: 0800 289 820

European Opps	62.70	66.67	- 0.24	...
UK Growth	93.12	99.02	- 1.76	...
Growth & Inc	163.40	173.80	- 5.20	2.23
Intl PEP	37.54	39.92	- 0.48	...
Japan Spec Sits	96.08	102.60†	+ 1.60	...
Japan	203.00	216.50	+ 4.80	...
Managed Intl	274.00	297.90	+ 0.60	...
Moneybuilder	95.60	99.31	- 0.39	...
Recovery	48.23	51.29	- 1.01	...
South E Asia	181.00	193.10	+ 6.40	...
Special Sits	367.80	603.80	- 7.80	...
Specialist Funds				
UK Index	114.00	120.00	- 4.50	2.91
UK Reverse Index	72.73	76.69	+ 2.68	4.73
Europe Index	119.70	126.10	- 0.92	4.22
-do- Reverse Index	54.42	58.45	+ 2.94	8.52
America Index	104.20	109.70	- 1.30	0.70
-do- Reverse Index	95.13	100.30	+ 4.36	0.83
Japan Index	137.60	144.90	+ 0.80	0.74
-do- Reverse Index	93.00	98.21	+ 4.19	1.42
Cash Accum Units	104.36	104.36	+ 0.07	4.60

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
20 Finsbury St, Lond EC2Y 9AQ 071 814 2700

Balanced	150.90	154.10	- 2.00	1.96
Inc Pfolio	90.66	98.48	- 1.72	3.24
Cap Pfolio	156.80	159.70†	- 2.90	0.55
General Opps	138.40	140.40	- 1.80	3.08
Growth Inc	33.06	33.70	- 0.71	2.03
Private Portfolio	444.40	452.50	- 3.30	1.35

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Admin, PO Box 2091, Brentwood, Essex
CMG DX Exng: 071 454 1434 Dlg: 0277 261 090

Hypo Foreign & Colonial				
European	115.50	122.20	- 1.70	0.30
Far Eastern	198.60	210.40	+ 1.80	...
High Income	23.17	24.60†	- 0.33	10.23

Flat end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: *Dealings began January 31. Dealings ended yesterday.* §*Contango day Monday. Settlement day February 21.* §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
524	345	Abbey Nt	516	+16	11.8	2.9	19.9
314	170	Allied Irish	276	- 6	...	3.8	14.1
271½	130	Am Exp Z	271	+ 2½	...	1.4	21.3
3806½	2712½	Bankamerica	2925	+57½	...	...	...
319	177	Bk of Ireland	279	- 5	...	4.5	20.4
395	325	Bk Leumi UK	395	+20	17.8	5.4	...
247	119½	Bank Scotland	222½	+ 3½	4.5	2.6	30.2
652	362	Barclays	584	+ 3½	...	2.7	...
30	8	Carlisle	28½	- 1	...	...	...
655	395	Cazy Allen	640	-13	20.0	3.5	...
180	85	Cattles	169	- 1	...	2.7	22.5
2487½	1543½	Chase Manh	2300	...	...	...	...
2812½	1343½	Citicorp	2637½	...	...	...	...
566	290	Close Bros	536	- 5	...	2.6	19.6
6153½	4977½	Commerzbk	£153½	-23½	...	2.8	...
5248½	4280½	Deutsche Bk	£313½	-17½	...	1.9	...
95	45	First Nat Fin	86 †	- 3	...	2.2	...
1651	876	Full Bank †	1418	- 1½	...	0.9	34.7
529	343	Gerrard Nat	503	- 9	21.5	5.3	13.4
1113	490	HSBC	1010	-24	20.0	2.5	24.2
1133	474	HSBC Hk	1031	-24	20.0	2.4	24.7
472	342	Hambros	450	-10	14.3	4.0	20.8
443	313	Joseph (L)	438	- 2	16.7	4.8	...
170	96	King Shaxson	165	...	...	0.6	8.8
670	312	Kleinwort Ben	659	+22	16.7	3.2	22.8
690	492	Lloyds	617	+ 2	...	4.6	12.7
118	63	Lon Scot Bk	115 †	...	3.4	3.7	...
630½	322	Nat Aust Bk	597½	- 2½	...	4.0	14.5
634	398	Nat West	584	+ 8	17.8	4.0	33.7
573	270	Provident	556	+ 8	12.4	2.9	23.2
67	30	Rea Bros	64	...	0.5	1.1	68.0
528	207	Ryl Bk Scot	479 †	+ 6½	...	2.9	21.7
1460	687½	Schroders	1400	-20	...	1.1	27.9
1527	576	Stand Chart	1296	- 5	20.5	2.9	...
291	145½	TSB	263½	+ 4½	...	3.7	20.4
199	78	Union Disc	196	- 4	...	...	...
1012	509	Warburg Sc	935	-25	...	2.6	13.2
2362½	1084½	Wells Fargo	2250	-100	...	3.1	...
260	121	Westpac	258	...	...	2.1	...
360	188	Wintrust	302	- 5	...	3.2	33.9

BREWERIES

697	517	Allied-Lyons	619 †	+ 2	...	4.3	17.2
647	441	Bass	579	- 10	...	4.2	12.8
359	189	Boddington	280	...	7.5	3.4	16.3
459	362	Bulmer (HP)	455 †	...	...	2.1	16.3
193	128	Burmond Bve	173 †	...	4.7	3.5	14.6
141	73	Clndge F 'A'n	106	...	...	2.7	20.0
70½	50	Fosters Brewing	62½	+ 1½	...	4.6	74.7
475	338	Pullr Sm 'A'n	475	...	7.5	2.0	19.9
437	373	Grand Met	426 †	-14	...	3.7	17.0
511	347	Greenalls Gp	458 †	- 4	...	3.4	15.0
584	505	Greene King	549 †	- 4	...	2.8	15.4
542	388	Guinness	532	+ 8½	...	2.9	19.5
80	31	Halkin Hldgs	71 †	...	...	...	55.4
281	230	Hardy Hatton	261 †	...	...	4.1	14.0
153	105	Hsepitlcare	139	...	3.6	3.1	...
457	295	Highland Distl	441	+ 9	...	2.9	21.9
3225	2538	Hskn J	3200	-25	42.0	1.3	20.8
186	118	Macallan-Glen	181	...	4.3	3.6	33.9
205	130	Macallan Martn 'A'	195	...	...	3.5	21.2
346	164	Matthew	343	...	...	2.3	16.5
302	231	Mrson Tmpp	296	- 1	...	2.3	16.5
985	288½	Matthew Clark	958	- 7	...	4.3	31.6
300	210	Mrydown W	216	- 8	7.0	4.2	19.3
380	455	Morland	310 †	...	...	2.3	18.5
12	6½	Paramount n	10½	...	...	1.8	18.5
257	145	Regent Inns	257	+ 7	...	2.2	26.1
1521½	753½	SA Breweries	1300	-19½	...	2.1	21.5
518	393	Scn & Nwr	518 †	- 5	...	4.1	15.0
225	155½	Taunton Cider	211 †	- 1	5.2	4.6	13.3
306	217	Vaux Group	285 †	- 2	...	4.2	18.3
420	225	Wetherspoon JD	400	- 3	...	1.7	31.6
617	435	Whitbread 'A'	544	- 8	...	4.1	13.4
913	603	Wolverhmpton D	548	- 3	...	2.9	15.4
528	475	Young 'A'	525	...	14.7	3.5	21.7

BUILDING, ROADS

205	73	Abbey	205 †	...	...	1.2	33.7
27	12	Abrightmore	23	...	...	0.5	...
207	87	Allens	196	- 2	...	3.3	44.4
160	65	Amec	147	...	3.0	2.0	27.2
15½	4	Anglia Sec	12 ‡	...	...	...	...
415	150	Ashtead	415	+ 6	...	1.4	43.9
165	101	Ashwoods	164	...	...	3.6	...
262	180	BPB Ind	231	- 1	...	2.7	42.0
127	57	Baggeridge Brk	123	...	...	3.2	37.0
41	18	Bailey (Ben) Con	39	...	0.6	1.9	...
108	66	Barcom	68	- 2	...	5.5	8.2
57	32½	Barrton	52	- 1	2.0	4.8	25.6
292	94	Barratt Devt	279	- 2	...	1.8	30.0
304	152½	Bellway	288	- 7	...	2.6	27.1
59	15	Bellwinch	58	- 1	...	...	...
239	98	Berkshird Inti	239 †	+10	...	...	...
573	295½	Berkeley Gp	570 †	- 3	...	1.4	30.8
157	45	Bmr Bros	151	- 2	...	1.7	19.5
90	36	Blockleys	84	- 4	1.0	1.5	...
391	189	Blue Circle	360	- 4	...	3.9	...
355	230	Boot (Henry)	336	+ 1	8.0	2.2	18.8
117	78	Breedon PLC	114	- 3	4.6	5.0	28.0
145	82	Br Dredging	144	- 1	5.2	4.3	22.0
48	45	Brit Fittings	48	+ 3	1.7	2.2	...
197½	69	Bryant	190	+ 1	...	3.2	28 †
146	53	CALA	142	+ 1	...	2.0	...
390	200	CRH	379	- 2	...	2.3	20.6
56	18	Cakebread Rby	56	...	...	...	...
42	21	Costain	40½	...	...	3.5	64.1
185	86½	Countryside	174	- 5	...	3.0	∞
116½	39½	Crest Nicholson	113 ‡	- ½	...	1.1	...
140	57	Cussins	135	...	...	0.9	...
250	95	Edmonsal Hldgs	214	+ 1½	0.3	1.2	...
300	178	Epwin	300	...	7.0	2.9	25.4
82	32	Erith	77	...	0.3	0.6	...
306	252	Eve Groups	458	...	...	2.8	17.2
264	47	Freeman Gps	264	...	6.0	3.1	38.2
59	28	Galliford	58	...	...	2.8	...
91	52	Gibbs & Dandy	90	...	...	2.8	...
1025	695	Gleeson (M)	1020	...	...	1.6	17.7
173½	75	Hewden-Stuart	166	- 1	...	2.1	35.5
51	28	Hewetson	51	...	...	3.1	37.3
475	173	Heywd Wlm	454 †	+ 6	13.0	4.0	...
145	57	Higgs & Hill	139	- 2½	2.5	3.4	...
39	26	How Gp	31	...	...	4.5	...
26	15	Howard Hldgs	25	...	0.5	2.5	...
100	59	Hsmck Jomsen	99	...	1.0	1.2	...
25	12½	Jarvis	25½	...	...	...	...
626	196	Laing (J)	406	- 7	9.0	2.8	16.3
154	103	-do- 6.4% Cv Pf	157	- 3½	...	5.1	...
145	53	Ln Clydesdale	138 †	...	...	4.3	27.1
230	100	Lovell (TJ)	150	- 5	...	...	20.8
405	240	Marsden	398	- 2	9.3	2.9	26.4
213½	93	Marley	193	...	4.2	2.7	56.6
155	61	Marshalls	147 †	- 4	...	3.4	...
253	122	Maunders (J)	250	...	...	2.6	24.1
200	96	McAlpine (A)	196	- 1	6.5	3.3	49.5
152	73	McCarthy & S	75	- 1	0.5	0.6	...
568	252	Meyer Int	550	- 2	...	2.7	55.1
188½	62	Mowlem (J)	179	- 1	4.0	2.8	...
196	51	NSM	187	- 1	...	...	...
53	41	Needler &	41	- 5	...	4.4	19.1
106	106	Newman Tuks	180	- 3	...	4.7	24.0
382	197	Persimmon	372	- 6	8.6	2.9	38.0
26	9	Phoenix Timber	16	...	...	...	...
1760½	1237½	Pochins	1760½	...	29.0	2.0	25.5
98	60	Pramings	90	...	3.4	2.2	...
1079	555	RMC Gp	951	...	...	2.6	25.7
172	79½	Raine Ind	168½	- 1½	...	3.5	25.7
36	18	Ramsay	32	- 1	...	...	...
640	432	Redland	596	- 2	25.0	5.2	34.7
82	41	Rentor	71	...	4.3	7.6	10.5
371	207	Rugby Group	319	-12	8.4	2.5	24.4
66	23	Sevtld-Eve	58	...	...	0.5	...
189	68	Sharpe & Fisher	180	...	...	2.8	31.3
258	89½	Sheffield Ind	252	- 3	...	2.4	69.5
82	52	Sheriff Hldgs	58 †	...	...	1.8	24.6
110	68	Shimco	110	...	5.2	5.9	25.0
245	196	Smart (J)	235	...	...	4.5	17.7
6½	1½	Stanmin	4½	...	...	...	...
204½	100	Tarmac	183	- 3	5.5	3.0	...
245	131	Tay Homes	245	...	...	3.0	30.3
188	65	Taylor Woodrw	160	- 4½	1.0	0.6	...
735	433	Tilbury Dnngls	733	+ 3	33.0	5.5	24.5
60	19	Tores Hires	54 †	- 2	...	1.4	...
270	168	Travis Perkins	326	- 2	8.0	3.0	59.0
29½	9½	Trenchwerwood	27	- 1	...	...	...
45	28	Try Group	36	...	1.0	3.5	10.2
26	21	Tudora	21	...	0.8	3.8	...
112	41	Vibroplant	112	- 1	2.5	2.8	40.3
14	5	Ward Hldgs	10	...	...	...	...
44	22	Warrenhouse	43	...	...	...	...
475	260	Watts Blake	455	...	...	3.3	19.0
225½	90	Westbury	212	- 6½	5.0	2.9	33.1
3	3	Wiggins	6½	...	...	...	...
573	362	Wilson Bowdn	562	- 7	...	2.0	34.4
359	167	Wilson (C)	344	- 8	3.9	2.0	42.3
249	104	Wimpey G	223	- 2	...	2.6	...
47	15	YRM	28	...	...	...	...

BUSINESS SERVICES

480	462	ADT	719	-10	...	...	...
391	198	Adam & Harvey	380	+ 2	13.0	4.2	7.1
92	56	Air London	68	...	3.5	6.4	12.1
58	37	African Lakes	48	...	2.0	5.2	...
178½	95	Auto Sec	141	- 4	...	3.7	24.0
94	59	BET Ord	142½	- 2½	...	2.0	5.7
165	41	BNB Res	144	...	4.9	4.3	...
219	193	BPP	203	...	8.3	4.1	14.0
185	154	BSM	184	- 1	...	3.9	16.1
2505	196	Barrour Index	2325	...	6.1	2.7	14.8
15	8	Boostead	22	...	0.7	4.0	...
26	16½	Brit Data Mgt	205	- 9	4.7	2.0	14.9
34	11	Broadcastdata	29	...	...	1.1	23.1
98	48	Brooks Service	75	...	...	0.8	...
70	16	CPT Gp	110	...	...	3.3	19.7
238	139½	Capita Group	220	...	...	1.3	34.4
50	31	Clarke Plc	50½	- 1½	...	2.0	27.7
58	18½	Clifford Capital	34½	...	...	...	...
26	26	Clubsite	26	- 1	...	...	...
129	72	Cmbbs Sec	108 †	- 8	...	1.7	34.0
157	90	Comace	114	- 1	...	1.6	29.8
46	6½	Corp Services	42	- 1	...	...	...
20	20	Cousins Cmbe	92	...	...	...	...
189	109	Dart	159	- 1	3.3	2.6	21.6
350	178	Davis Service	260	- 5	...	3.7	20.5
151	68	EW Faire	151	+10	4.9	3.7	17.3
34	11	Gardiner	30½	...	0.7	3.0	∞
354	215	Hays	318	...	...	2.1	27.7
268	174	Hogg Robinson	264	...	...	3.0	20.7
70	34	Holmes Protecm	34	...	...	...	2.1
365½	157	Hsrch Whamp	352½	- 9½	...	1.5	27.5
268	175	ISS B DKr	269½	- 6½	...	0.8	18.6
265	122	Inchcape	259	+ 6	...	2.3	18.9
705½	469	Johnson Clean	703	...	25.7	3.1	22.6
12	2½	Lep	7½	...	...	...	...
362	173	Mitie Gp	362	...	...	4.0	1.4
1234½	893½	Manpower	1209½	...	...	...	24.9
96	40	Mitchell Page	77	- ½	1.6	2.9	32.7
220	110	Perma	110	...	8.0	9.1	4.1
5½	2	Prime People	4½	...	...	...	...
24½	9½	Promotion	20	- 2	...	21.3	4.9
427	257	RCO	427	...	15.2	4.9	13.1
116	86	REA	110	...	...	2.0	2.3
43	23	Reed Executive	125	- 1	...	...	...
108	68	Reliance Sec	120 †	...	4.5	4.5	33.0
68	37	Rentokil	57	- 4	2.5	1.2	32.1
243	150	Rotle & Nolan	243	...	...	2.6	24.9
394	295	Salvesen (C)	389	- 2	...	3.4	19.2
360	255	Scot Pickfords	56	...	0.8	1.8	17.8
6½	1½	Select ADTn	3½	...	...	...	...
1226	695	Serco Gp	1333	...	13.3	1.2	36.0
95	83	Sherard Cmpn	90	...	...	8.8	2.9
55	30	Skembles	112	- 1	...	3.2	26.8
365	210	Warner Howard	338	...	6.6	2.5	17.5
45	27	Welpac	30	...	...	...	...
26½	14	Willis Gp	25½	- ½	...	1.8	19.9

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

250	210	Allied Colloids	250 †	+ 2	...	1.9	24.8
1090	915	Amersham	1085	+ 2	...	1.6	30.4
7	1½	Anglo Ltd	2½	...	...	...	...
6159	5335	BASF DM	£1145	-37½	...	5.5	...
1½	1	BTP	1½	...	...	3.4	27.8
£143½	£101½	Bayer DM50	£139½	-7½	...	3.8	...
178	108	Biagden	168	...	6.5	4.8	18.2
168	93	Brent Chems	124	...	...	7.5	11.3
580	342	Br Bio-Tech	380	...	...	...	...
8	5	Clurd Gp	10½	...	...	...	28.5
242	139	Canning (W)	180	- 5	7.2	5.1	20.6
1078	621	Courtaulds	905	- 9	...	3.5	12.6
1437	826	Croda	1226	...	...	2.7	20.8
148	103	Doeflex	127	- 1	4.6	4.5	9.7
243	178	Ellis & Everard	231 †	- 4	...	3.3	25.7
24½	12½	Exro Colour	20½	...	0.8	2.9	18.4
259	159	Halstead (J)	245	...	...	2.6	17.1
241	150	Hickson	193	- 3	...	3.2	17.9
2147	1355	Hoechst	£1165	-15½	...	3.1	...
197	157	Holliday Chem	165	...	...	2.4	18.0
914	608	ICI	787	-17	...	4.6	...
1½	1	Lagos	1½	...	19.9	5.0	25.2
294	161	Leigh	218	- 2	...	4.5	18.0
47	35	MTM	46	...	...	...	...
2365½	1662½	Norsk Hydro	2250½	-18½	...	1.2	32.5
604	320	Paterson Zoch	577	...	...	2.7	19.5
388	280	-do- 'A'	547	...	...	2.9	18.5
296	193	Plysu	291	...	...	3.7	20.2
303	172	Portair	280	...	3.8	1.6	31.0

DRAPERY, STORES

102	52	Alexon	74	- 4	...	5.1	...
248	173	Allders	228	- 3	...	3.4	10.8
410	257	Argos Plc	386	- 7	...	2.4	31.2
25	8	Ashley Group	9½	...	...	2.5	...
118	80	Ashley (Laura)	97	- 1	0.1	0.1	...
397	278	Asprey	342	...	5.2	1.9	22.1
199	84	Austin Reed	164	...	...	1.6	...
168	125	Beattie (J) 'A'	165	...	...	3.6	10.6
280	94	Bentalls	165	...	1.9	1.6	...
298	126	Bestwerwre	140	- 5	...	1.9	10.6
67	47	Blacks Leis	61	- 1	2.2	0.6	...
261½	120	Body Shop	248	+ 3	...	0.9	34.7
16½	9	Brown & Jackson	10	...	...	1.8	5.1
491	318	Brown (N)	480	...	6.5	2.2	21.9
87½	54	Burton	55 †	...	...	3.8	15.7
265	126	Cantors	235	...	...	2.7	22.6
520	296	Church	463	-15	12.5	3.4	41.2
183	97	Clinton Cards	160	- 1	4.3	3.4	19.3
287	212	Coats Viyella	272	- 1	...	3.4	37.6
130	78	Colourvisions	98 †	- 2	5.6	7.7	18.3
181	156	Cry Clothds	165	...	...	3.1	15.3
695	374	Cmns Furnsn	675	...	5.6	0.8	11.0
165	115	Crown Eyes	165	...	7.5	5.2	11.3
157	89	Daily Farm Intl	112	- 2½	...	2.2	12.2
109½	51½	Dewhirst (J)	109	- ½	0.8	0.9	35.0
393	189	Dixons Gp	221 †	+ 7	...	3.6	...
22	8	EZA Gp	8½	...	...	...	69.7
580	400	Elys (Wimbldn)	580	...	16.0	3.5	19.9
264	71	Essex Furn	254	+ 1	...	1.7	40.6
273	203	Etam	256	- 1	7.0	3.4	23.5
638	499	Fine Art Dev	527	- 2	16.0	3.1	17.1
70	26	Fired Earth Tiles	40	+ 1	...	...	...
715	498	Forminster	708 †	...	14.5	2.6	12.9
180	29	French Conns	150	...	...	...	...
74	43	Gem SR	66	- 1	...	4.0	20.5
103	23	Goldsmiths Gp	86	...	0.3	0.4	...
659	334	GUS	574	-13	...	2.5	17.6
40	27	Harrapdsn Grps	35	...	...	5.0	12.4
227	30	Harrisons	76	- 1	...	...	...
340	33½	Helene Pic	295	+ ½	2.0	0.5	13.9
110	39	Heritage A	93	...	...	...	...
86	35	Honeysuckle	78	- 1	...	3.6	11.4
63	43	Jacques Vert	60	...	...	3.3	14.8
793	493	Kingfisher	643	- 2	...	2.1	22.1
69	62½	Leslie Wise Gp	62	...	4.0	6.0	17.1
685	495	Liberty	543	...	7.2	1.7	63.9
380	241	Lloyds Chem	330	- 7	...	2.7	11.6
184	120	MFI	179 †	- 1	...	6.5	...
491½	311	Marks Spencer	468	- 1	...	3.4	21.3
680	445	Menzies (John)	668	...	...	2.1	17.3
285	135	Moss Bros	285	...	5.5	2.4	33.5
281	139½	Next	227	- 2	3.5	1.9	27.1
46	15	Oliver (G)	45	...	...	...	...
335	197	Ortlhame Intl	315 †	- 2	...	3.9	15.4
63	24	Pendrs	34	+ 2	0.8	2.9	7.1
213	185	QS Hldgs	208	...	5.1	2.4	19.1
69½	30½	Rahno Grps	39	- 3	...	...	...
205	120	Rodwys	200	- 3	...	3.0	24.5
181	135	Shrewsbury	147	...	...	1.9	15.7
132	93	Sears	120	- 3	...	3.6	48.3
41½	11	Signet Group	36½	...	...	...	...
545	410	Smith WH 'A'	497	+ 9	...	3.8	13.9
127	83	-do- B	117	- 1	...	3.2	18.7
21	4½	Specialeyes a	13	...	...	...	...
282	178	Storehouse	228	- 4	...	2.7	22.5
210	172	Sumrs Plc	208	- 1	6.0	4.2	13.4
173	71	The Rack	161	- 1	1.0	0.6	20.4
265	169	Time Products	257	...	7.7	3.8	22.2
131	63	Usher (Frank)n	123	- 2	6.0	5.1	20.5
465	305	Vendome	405	- 8	...	1.8	20.2
108	121	Sectormules	121 †	...	...	2.7	21.1
85	42	Newmark (L)	53	...	...	...	...
339	58	Narbains	338	- 1	...	0.6	26.0
75	30	Northamber	58	...	0.6	1.3	...
15½	5	Oceonics	9	...	...	...	...
257	195	Oxford Inst	256	- 1	4.6	1.8	24.4
97	29	P & F	81	+ 2	2.0	3.3	∞
98	55	Peek	95	...	3.4	4.5	24.8
235	115	Pegasus	230	...	...	3.5	59.0
£104½	9000	Phillips Fn 4%	£104½	...	...	5.5	...
167½	725	-do- Lmp rv	163½	-22½	...	...	...
415	213	Pinnacle Hlgs	405	...	...	...	...
332	171½	Pitco	327	...	...	1.6	27.4
317	151½	-do- 'A' Voting	317	...	...	1.6	26.6
83	43	Pharmacia	70	...	...	1.4	40.2
120	76	Prestatc	120	+ 4	...	2.7	25.4
261	181	Psiona	258	...	2.5	1.2	68.5
261	147	Racal Elec	210 †	- 6	4.2	2.5	12.5
70	37	Radamec	50	...	...	3.8	18.7
78	30	Radfmsa	35	...	2.2	6.0	12.1
114	61	Real Time	109	- 1	...	3.4	22.4
38	15	Rivia	18	...	...	...	22.8
629	367	Sage Gp	598 †	...	...	2.2	17.5
359	225	Sanderson Elec	345	...	9.9	3.6	14.7
98	49	Scantronic	87	+ 1	3.1	3.6	23.8
230	117	Scholey Grp	208	...	...	3.0	26.9
270	230	Sema Gp	256	- 1	2.0	1.0	28.8
275	238	Servomex	264	+ 2	5.9	2.8	20.0
26	26	Silverstones	26	...	...	...	...
147½	54	Soundtracks	87	- 2	...	3.5	...
2721½	1737½	TDK	2300	- 6½	...	1.2	30.7
27	15	TDS Circuits	15	...	...	...	...
188	80	Telemetrix	144	- 4½	0.8	0.7	27.7
282	178	Tempus	280	- 8	...	1.1	35.3
1153	809	THORN EMI	1085	-13	...	3.7	25.1
166	96	Thorpe FW	163	- 2	...	2.0	19.0
103	23	Total Systems	36	- 3	1.5	5.2	8.4
321	186	Tunnocks	298 †	...	...	1.5	∞
324	164	Unitech	316	...	...	2.5	53.4
25	6	Verity	15	...	...	...	...
39	22	Vitacs	29	+ ½	0.3	1.6	17.1
647	367	Vodafone	624 †	+ 9	...	1.4	28.7
485	368	Volex	474	+ 4	18.1	4.8	19.5
26	11	Western Selectn	23 †	...	0.2	1.4	...
315	223	Wholesale Figs	310	...	11.7	4.8	32.6

ELECTRICITY

717	380	East Midlands	666 †	- 9	...	3.9	11.8
725½	399	Eastern Elec	678 †	- 6	...	3.7	12.9
480½	304	Hydro--Elec	419	- 9½	...	3.5	14.4
733½	404	London Elec	684	- 4	...	3.9	12.9
850	458	Manweb	780	-16	...	3.5	9.7
767	434½	Midlands Elec	661 †	-11	...	3.9	10.9
710	373	National Power	675½	+14½	...	2.9	11.8
801	440	Northern Elec	723 †	-15	...	3.9	9.4
295	100	Nthn Ireland	284 †	- 3	...	3.1	13.7
806	439	Norweb	730 †	- 5	20.8

Predict how England's players will perform in the Caribbean

Name your side to triumph in the West Indies

NO CRICKETING environment is more testing than the West Indies. A long line of fearsome fast bowlers has prevented any touring team from winning a series there for 21 years. Michael Atherton is the latest England captain to try to end that record but he is leading an inexperienced England team. Who will flourish and who will flounder? In *The Times* 1st XI game, you can pick your team and measure its performance against the players' real statistics, which will be published after every international match in *The Times*. Whether you enter for your own satisfaction or to pit your selection skills against friends, the game should add to the excitement of what should be a memorable series. And for those who prove the best at 1st XI cricket, there will be some memorable prizes, including a trip to see England play Australia in Melbourne.

The aim of the game: Readers are invited to pick their England cricket XI from the party in the West Indies and estimate the players' individual performances in the five one-day internationals and five Test matches of the tour. The winner of the game will be the person whose predictions are closest to the actual performances of his or her selected eleven players in all ten matches.

The prize: Win the trip of a lifetime for yourself and three family members or friends to see the Christmas Test match between Australia and England, which begins in Melbourne on December 24. We will provide flights, hotel accommodation for two weeks in Melbourne and tickets to each day of the Test match.

Twenty runners-up will each receive a pair of tickets to one of England's six Test matches against New Zealand and South Africa this summer.

What to do: *Simply study the* 17 names of the England tour party printed on the 1st XI bat. Then select your XI, bearing in mind that you must pick six from the batsman category and four from the bowler category. You must also pick one of the wicketkeepers, Stewart or Russell, and designate him as wicketkeeper. Whichever of these two players you do not choose as your wicketkeeper, you may nominate as one of your six batsmen.

When you telephone your entry, **you will be asked for your wicketkeeper selection first.** You may not pick any player twice.

For each of your eleven players, you will be asked to give your predictions of the total number of runs they will make in the international matches (five Test matches and five one-day internationals, which allows a maximum of 15 innings), and then the total number of wickets they will take.

In the case of the designated wicketkeeper, catches and stumpings will count as wickets. When you call *The Times* 1st XI number, you will be asked to express each selection numerically. For example, if you have selected Alec Stewart as your wicketkeeper, and are predicting that he will score 350 runs and take 25 wickets, your entry would read:

02 350 25

Throughout the period of international matches, *The Times* will print the running totals of all 17 players. After April 21, the last day of the fifth Test, the final totals of each player will be compared to readers' individual selections.

The difference between predicted totals for each player in each category and their actual totals will be measured in points: one point for each run, and 20 points for each wicket, regardless of whether you have underestimated or overestimated. Three examples of how predictions would be measured are given below. The winner will be the reader with the fewest points.

No allowance can be made if a player is injured or sent home for any reason, nor for loss of play due to weather conditions or any other external factors. Readers should bear these points in mind when making selections. No substitutions will be allowed.

The closing date for telephone entries is noon on Wednesday, February 16, the day of the opening one-day international in Barbados.

You can enter as many times as you like, but each entry requires a separate telephone call. You can enter on your own, with your family (up to a maximum of four people) or a joint team (maximum of four) with your friends, **but all callers must be aged 18 or over.**

When you have selected your team, check what type of telephone you are using. You must have a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) to enter. You **cannot** enter using a rotary dial or "pulse" telephone.

Once you have found a Touch-tone telephone, you can enter by dialling **0891 500 103.** The lines are open now. Then just follow the simple step-by-step instructions on the line. Listen carefully and take your time. The recorded message will ask you to key in the full set of selections (player reference number, number of runs, number of wickets) for each of your 11 chosen players in turn, starting with the designated wicketkeeper.

You will then be asked to record your name, address and daytime phone number.

Finally, you will be given an eight-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). You will need this if you are a winner. If you cannot get through, please be patient. You have plenty of time to make your entry. Use *The Times* 1st XI bat to record your selections and your PIN.

Only readers in the Republic of Ireland and elsewhere outside the United Kingdom and Channel Islands may enter by post.

Complete *The Times* 1st XI bat and send it, with your name and address and daytime telephone number, to:

The Times 1st XI,
PO Box 1803,
London NW1 8QN.

Entries must arrive by first post on February 16.

KEY DATES

Feb 16: First one-day international (Barbados)
Feb 19-24: First Test (Jamaica)
Feb 26: Second one-day international (Jamaica)
Mar 2: Third one-day international (St Vincent)
Mar 5: Fourth one-day international (Trinidad)
Mar 6: Fifth one-day international (Trinidad)
Mar 17-22: Second Test (Guyana)
Mar 25-30: Third Test (Trinidad)
Apr 8-13: Fourth Test (Barbados)
Apr 16-21: Fifth Test (Antigua)

HOW PREDICTIONS ARE MEASURED



Player: Alec Stewart (wk/cpt)

Predicted runs	494
Actual runs	576
Difference	82
Points (82 x 1)	82
Predicted wickets (0 and st)	18
Actual wickets	22
Difference	4
Points (4 x 20)	80
TOTAL POINTS (82 + 80)	162



Player: Graeme Hick (batsman)

Predicted runs	460
Actual runs	230
Difference	230
Points (230 x 1)	230
Predicted wickets	8
Actual wickets	6
Difference	2
Points (2 x 20)	40
TOTAL POINTS (230 + 40)	270

THE TIMES

To select your eleven from the England tour party call:

0891 500103

1st XI

No	Name	Runs	Wickets
WICKETKEEPERS			
01	R C Russell		
02	A J Stewart		
BATSMEN			
03	M A Atherton		
04	G A Hick		
05	N Hussain		
06	M P Maynard		
07	M R Ramprakash		
08	R A Smith		
09	G P Thorpe		
BOWLERS			
10	A R Caddick		
11	A R C Fraser		
12	A P Igglesden		
13	C C Lewis		
14	D E Malcolm		
15	I D K Salisbury		
16	P C R Tufnell		
17	S L Watkin		

Your Personal Identification Number

Calls cost 36p a minute cheap rate, 48p a minute at other times.
Calls last around 6 minutes

Win a trip to see England in Melbourne

Simon Wilde on a prize that features one of Test cricket's great occasions awaiting the winner of *The Times* 1st XI game

CHRISTMAS in England may traditionally be a time of short days, long nights, cold weather and evenings spent by the fireside, but in Australia it provides one of the great occasions in the cricketing calendar: the Melbourne Test match. This year, to add spice to the occasion, the visitors are England, who will be attempting to regain the Ashes that have been in the hands of their oldest rivals since 1989.

The winner of *The Times* 1st XI competition will receive for him or herself and three guests return flights to Melbourne, tickets to the Test match, plus accommodation in a top Melbourne hotel for a fortnight.

The match is not simply a sporting occasion, it is also a social one. Melbournians turn up in their thousands, especially on Boxing Day, when they make a family day of it and crowds in excess of 60,000 are common. The stadium that was the main arena for the 1956 Olympic Games is well used to big crowds: indeed, the largest official attendances for one Test match (350,534 in 1937) and for a single day's play in Test cricket (90,800 in 1961) were both recorded here.

England's recent visits to the MCG have been laced with drama. The last time they played there was two years ago, when they suffered the disappointment of losing the World Cup final to Pakistan after dominating the early stages of the tournament. Graham Gooch, the England captain, said afterwards: "It's not the end of the world, but is is close to it."

Fifteen months earlier, in December 1990, Gooch suffered another disappointment when England lost their most recent Test match on the ground, but only after a thrilling, hard-fought contest. For four days, bowlers dominated on a low, slow pitch. Bruce Reid, the Australia left-arm seamer, took six for 97 and seven for 51; Angus Fraser, in a heroic performance, returned six for 82 from 39 overs.

Australia began the final day on 28 for two, needing a further 169 runs for victory, and a tense finish seemed in prospect, but sensible batting by Marsh and Boon saw them home without the loss of any more wickets.

England's two previous Melbourne Test matches turned out more satisfactorily for them. In 1986, Mike Gatting's side had the match — and with it the Ashes — won in three days. On Boxing Day England enjoyed one of their most successful days against Australia, dismissing them for 141 (Small taking five for 48 with a superb display of inswing bowling) and then advancing to 95 for one by stumps. The next day Broad went on to one of his three centuries in the series and when Australia batted again they succumbed to the spin of Emburey and Edmonds.

Four years earlier, the ground witnessed of the most dramatic finishes in Test history, when England won by three runs after Australia's tenth-wicket pair, Border and Thomson, had gathered 70 of the 74 runs they needed when they came together. Even the last act was anything but predictable: Botham induced Thomson to give an edge to second slip but Tavaré, the fielder, could only parry the ball and it needed Miller, running round from first slip, to complete the catch.

In a departure from recent practice, this year's Test match will start on Christmas Eve rather than Boxing Day, with Christmas Day as the rest day. Average temperatures in Melbourne at that time of the year are in the high seventies.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE COMPETITION

1. Only applications made through The Times 1st XI telephone lines will be accepted from readers in the United Kingdom and Channel Islands. Postal applications will only be accepted from readers in the Republic of Ireland and outside the United Kingdom and must be received by the closing date. Only one postal entry per household is permitted.
2. They must be received by noon on Wednesday February 16 1994. There is no limit to the number of telephone applications any person or household may make. The lines are open now.
3. Only players published in The Times 1st XI list will be accepted as entries into the 1st XI competition. Incorrect entries null and void with no refund. No correspondence related to players selected will be entered into.
4. The 11 players selected must be drawn from the 17 in the published list. Six must be drawn from those designated as batsmen, four from the bowlers. One must be drawn from the wicketkeeper category although either Stewart or Russell may also be selected as a batsman if not picked as wicketkeeper. No player may be picked twice.
5. The Times independent panel of experts will provide updated records of each player's performance on a regular basis.
6. Inaudible or incomplete applications will not be accepted. The computer's record of the entry will be considered to be the entry.
7. Offer is open to readers over the age of 18.
8. The first prize will go to the team with the lowest total score. If there is more than one entrant with the same total of points, the winner will be decided by tie-break.

   In the first instance of a tie, the entrant whose selected eleven made the most appearances in the ten matches would be adjudged the winner. We will investigate complaints but our decision is final and we will not enter into correspondence regarding the competition.
9. Promotional and explanatory copy relating to The Times 1st XI form part of the terms and conditions for participation.
10. Calls charged at 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at other times.
11. Calls should take around six minutes.

New Zealand routed by Wasim

WASIM Akram, who was recently deposed as captain, captured six wickets for 43, his best bowling figures for his country, as Pakistan took command of the first Test against New Zealand in Auckland yesterday.

Sixteen wickets fell at Eden Park on the second day, which ended with Pakistan needing a further 135 runs for victory with all second-innings wickets standing.

Wasim was chiefly responsible for New Zealand's dismissal for 110 on a fast but basically true pitch. It could have been worse, for they were 44 for six at one stage, all-rounder Chris Cairns, who made 31, and fast bowler Simon Doull, with 29, staging a minor recovery. The wicketkeeper, Rashid Latif, took five catches to add to his four in the first innings, thus setting a Pakistan record of nine in a match.

The day had started well for New Zealand with Pakistan, who began at 61 for four, slipping to 93 for six at the fall of the overnight batsmen, Salim Malik and Basit Ali. But a careful 43 from Inzamam-ul-Haq, a determined 30 from Latif and a flamboyant 35 from the irrepressible Wasim enabled them to reach 215, limiting the deficit to 27.

Doull, playing his fourth Test, had career-best figures of five for 66 when the Pakistan innings ended an hour after lunch.

Wasim and Waqar Younis then set about justifying their reputation as the best fast-bowling combination in the game. Although Wasim gained most success, Waqar was equally hostile and most of the specialist batsmen were beaten for pace, although Rutherford, who had fought his way to 18, was unlucky enough to drag a ball from Younis into his stumps.

Wasim bowled unchanged throughout the innings, Waqar and Ata-ur-Rehman the only other bowler used, sharing the other four wickets. Before the close there was time for one over in which Aamir Sohail and Saeed Anwar chipped three runs off the victory target.

Things have been so hectic in the middle during this match that, according to the official scorers, the umpires, Harold Bird, the International Cricket Council's neutral official, and Steve Dunne, are having problems keeping count of the number of balls bowled.

Dunne has allowed overs lasting eight, seven and five deliveries while Bird, they said, permitted Waqar only five balls in his seventh over yesterday.

AUCKLAND SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 242 (A H Jones 60, M J Greatbatch 48, Waqar Younis 4-46)

Second Innings

B A Young c Rashid b Wasim	0
B A Pocock c Mushtaq b Wasim	10
A H Jones c Rashid b Wasim	6
*K R Rutherford b Waqar	18
M J Greatbatch c Inzamam b Wasim	0
S A Thomson c Rashid b Waqar	0
C L Cairns c Mushtaq b Rehman	31
†T E Blain c Rashid c Rehman	4
S E Doull c Salim b Wasim	29
R P de Groen not out	0
M B Owens c Rashid b Wasim	0
Extras (lb 4, b 5, nb 3)	12
Total	110

FALL OF WICKETS 1-0, 2-9, 3-31, 4-35, 5-40, 6-44, 7-67, 8-103, 9-110.

BOWLING Wasim Akram 16-1-4-43-6, Waqar Younis 19-3-35-2, Ata-ur-Rehman 6-1-23-2.

PAKISTAN First Innings

Saeed Anwar c Blain b Cairns	15
Aamir Sohail c Jones b de Groen	16
Ijaz Mustaba c Blain b Doull	8
Mushtaq Ahmed c Young b Doull	0
*Salim Malik c Young b Doull	18
Basit Ali c Blain b Cairns	25
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Young b de Groen	43
†Rashid Latif lbw b Doull	30
Wasim Akram c Blain b de Groen	35
Waqar Younis c Cairns b Doull	11
Ata-ur-Rehman not out	2
Extras (lb 6, nb 5)	11
Total	215

FALL OF WICKETS 1-17, 2-36, 3-43, 4-50, 5-87, 6-90, 7-141, 8-178, 9-207.

BOWLING Cairns 13-2-75-2, Owens 7-1-28-0, Doull 15-2-66-5, de Groen 17.4-5-40-3.

Second Innings

Saeed Anwar not out	1
Aamir Sohail not out	1
Extras (nb 1)	1
Total (no wkt)	3

BOWLING Doull 1-0-3-0.

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Can the class of '94 give the masters a caning?

Can England put the wind up the West Indies? The first ball is bowled on February 16th and the series of 5 Tests and 5 One-Day Internationals continues until April 21st. Watch England take on the mighty West Indies. Live and exclusive only on Sky Sports.

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Win a trip
see England
in Melbourn

England players come under the manager's scrutiny today

Cooke calls for more decisive play

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S senior players will face a stern inquisition when they gather at Richmond this evening to prepare for next weekend's international against Ireland.

So poor was the decision-making during the one-point victory over Scotland last Saturday that the team management will make a critical examination of what went wrong in the hope that the team to be named tomorrow can put it right.

Geoff Cooke, the manager, who will watch today's Courage Clubs Championship match between Wasps and Leicester at Sudbury alongside Dick Best, the coach, does not mince his words. "The worrying things for me were that once again we didn't appear to recognise or understand what was happening [at Murrayfield] and what we could do about it," he said.

"We have criticised ourselves before about that. Even though several of the team had little or no five nations experience there were a number of players with forty, fifty and sixty caps. You expect these guys to draw on that experience in assessing situations during games. I couldn't see any obvious sign of that."

Best and his assistant, Mike Slemen, who will watch Northampton play Bristol, must hope that the players themselves recognise their deficiencies and come up with the answers. Those with most reason to feel threatened are the wings and the locks: the back row is likely to remain intact although Cooke would not rule Tim Rodber out of the equation against Ireland.

Rodber, Northampton's captain and blind-side flanker in last November's win over New Zealand, will not test his damaged hamstring against Bristol. However, Cooke added: "If we can satisfy ourselves that he will be fit — through our medical staff and tests they will do — we will consider him."

Today's league fixtures should not make a substantial difference to the long-term portfolios built up on individuals over months and years. Yet were Ian Hunter, for example, to give an outstanding display for Northampton or Paul Hull for Bristol, that could be a decisive factor in their favour. In Rodber's absence, Martin Bayfield leads the Saints against Bristol.

As a jolt to the memory, Harlequins produce David Pears against Newcastle Gosforth at the Stoop memorial ground (their replacements, in the wake of their open-side flanker crisis, include the recently retired Lion, Peter Winterbottom). Remarkably, Pears has not played a league match since September 19, 1992 and his aggregate of England caps has stuck at three despite all the aspirations entertained for him.

Pears, 26, won his third cap as a replacement for Rob Andrew in Paris two years ago but seemed likely to become the long-term successor to Jonathan Webb at full back. Fate intervened: a hand injury on the England A tour to Canada last summer was a setback but not so much as the knee ligament damage sustained against Blackrock College last September. That, combined with a groin strain, has kept him out until now.

Whether he can make up lost ground in time for the May tour to South Africa seems problematic: he has to reclaim both the form shown two years ago and his goal-kicking touch, in which respect Jonathan Callard's confidence should now be as high as it has ever been. Anyone who can kick a pressure goal like the one which won England the game at Murrayfield has much to recommend his composure.

Callard plays for Bath, the league leaders, at Gloucester. Bath omit Chris Clark and Richard Hill in favour of David Hilton at prop and Ian Sanders at scrum half while Ben Clarke rests the arm heavily bruised at Murrayfield. However, Nigel Redman and Andy Reed are paired at lock for the first time this season and Gloucester could have their work cut out.



Pears makes his first appearance in a league game for nearly 18 months

Murphy runs check on Leicester centre

GERRY Murphy, the Ireland coach, visits London today but not to an Irish selector's usual haunt at Sunbury; instead Murphy, coach to the team which has lost both five nations' championship matches this season, will be at Sudbury to assess the credentials of Lawrence Boyle, the Leicester centre who plays against Wasps (David Hands writes).

Boyle, from Leamington but whose father is from Dublin, played for Irish Students last month after winning England under-21 caps earlier in his career. Now a student at Oxford University, Boyle was unavailable to Leicester before Christmas but has played regularly since as the Tigers sustain their pursuit of Bath at the top of the first division.

Leicester lead 5-2 in their league matches with Wasps, who, in their quest for extra mobility, move Matt Greenwood from blind-side flanker to lock instead of Steve Shortland. Lawrence Dallaglio, fresh from the England Emerging Players' success against Spain, returns to the back row in a match which may hinge on two of the first division's leading points-scorers: Rob Andrew and Jez Harris, the respective stand-off halves, have both scored 142 league points this season.

☐ Alain Penaud, the Brive stand-off half, has recovered from a knee injury sustained last weekend against Castres, the French club champions, and is expected to be selected today in an unchanged French team to play Wales in Cardiff next Saturday.

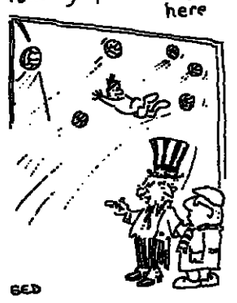
American talk about moving the goalposts



SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

I hope nobody is paying any attention to the mischievous and xenophobic rumours that the United States, host for the World Cup finals this year, wants to make major alterations to Americanise football. We must have the simple faith that it really will go ahead and launch the "Major Soccer League" in 1995, as planned, and that it would not dream of tampering with the world's game.

Apart, that is, from changing the size of the goals. Yes, that old canard is up and quacking again, but this time the suggestion comes from no less a person than Alan Rothenberg, who runs football in America and is the power behind the World Cup. The rationale behind it is that if scoring is the most exciting thing in a game, the more times you score the more exciting it is. Well, up



to a point, Lord Copper. It is *possible* to have a dull basketball game, you know.

The size of the goal was set earlier in the century by, er, the Brits. "That was when goalies were 5ft 5in," Rothenberg said. "I don't think it's a radical change."

Messing about with perfectly good games to increase the cheap-thrill factor is a rather older American tradition than football. It includes, in various games, the 24-second shot-clock, three-point baskets, clock stopping, the outlawing of "zone defence", and the dreaded designated-hitter rule. Hell, why don't we allow the offensive guys in sah-kurr to use their hands? Sorry, chaps, that one's been done.

On the run

Stealing the early run for this column's Hero of the Winter Olympics, we have Nedzad Lomigora, the first person in history to make the luge event look sane. He reached the event after a two-hour, 900-yard journey to his aeroplane. It was at Sarajevo airport at the time. "There were 20 vehicles after us," he said. "Eight people died, 10 to 20 were injured. This is fun compared to all that." The Bosnian Olympic Committee told him he had permission to go, but did not help his escape. Since then, 12 months ago, Lomigora had his first few months of training supported by the German Olympic Committee, two racing suits were given to him by a Bermudan luger, and he bought his sled second hand from the Austrians. He will be the only luger with a light heart.

Sex Games

The Lillehammer Games are graced by the presence of a "Norwegian sex expert" with the less than encouraging name of Kirsten Frigstad. She is involved in a two-year survey on "The Olympics and the sex market". I don't *think* she is putting up a new Olympic sport, though you can never tell. "In Lillehammer we expect a large international gathering," she said. "In such an environment, it is easier to ask for or buy sexual services. There has never been such a project at a such a big event." The Games organisers, she said, were aware of her work, but were not keen on boasting about it. "I'm very lonely in this project," she said.

Jumping to it

On to the big one: British ski jumping. There are alas, no Brits to jump at the Winter Olympics. The top lads, James Lambert and Ben Freeth, did jump at Lillehammer before Christmas, coming 79th and eighteenth in a European Cup event. It was a dress rehearsal for the Games and all the top men took part. Yes, there were indeed 80 competitors. The gap is closing a little: Eddie Edwards's famous jump in Calgary represented 60 per cent of the winner's distance; Lambert's effort in December was 63.6 per cent.

The startling fact is the Japanese improvement in ski-jumping: four in the top ten. They have taken to the sport with money and enthusiasm, offering glittering prizes to those with stout hearts and sharp skis. But in Britain, talks about building an artificial hill continue to stumble and stall. Don't want no stout hearts here, guv. More than my job's worth.

Smith and Sotomayor agree to musical jumps

David Powell, athletics correspondent, looks forward to an unusual contest between the world's best in Liverpool



Sotomayor: dominant

JAVIER Sotomayor, the world's most successful athlete of the past five years, has agreed to compete against Steve Smith, the British record-holder, in a high jump-to-music competition at Wavertree tennis centre, Liverpool, on February 24. Sotomayor's participation is the seal of approval for an event that is being organised independently of the British Athletic Federation (BAF) and which the promoter, Vicente Modahl, intends to become annual.

Sotomayor, a 26-year-old Cuban, holds a list of titles and records that no other athlete can match. He holds the high jump indoor and outdoor world records, the indoor and outdoor world titles, and the Olympic title. But if anyone can beat him, Smith can, and, as a Liverpudlian, he will have home support.

Smith, at 21, has risen to world No 2, winning world championship bronze medals outdoors and indoors last year and, eight days ago, setting a British and Commonwealth indoor record of 2.38 metres in Wuppertal, Germany. In eight competitions against Sotomayor this past year, he has beaten him twice. It is a match between specialists on a level lacking in the McDonald's indoor international between Britain and the United States at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, today.

The United States team does not include a single medal-winner from the world championships in Stuttgart last year, with no Sandra Farmer-Patrick to take on Sally Gunnell in the 400 metres and no Andre Cason to meet Linford Christie in the 60 metres. Colin Jackson races Christie but, though he set a European hurdles record of 7.38sec on Wednesday, he is not a world leader on the flat.

Sotomayor versus Smith brings together the best in high jumping and the match will be repeated two days later, in the TSB meeting at Birmingham. But this will be a conventional contest, without the motivational assistance of music playing while the athletes jump. When Smith set his record in Wuppertal, Lenny Kravitz, the pop singer, helped him over. Modahl's modest budget of £25,000 has left him reliant on the athletes' goodwill; preparing the arena and advertising has accounted for £14,000.

However, Sotomayor said he would jump for expenses only, provided that Smith goes to Havana in May to compete against him there. Smith has agreed, presenting Sotomayor with a rare opportunity to jump at home against top opposition.

On Thursday, Modahl, who is also Smith's manager, bought the temporary jumping surface, advised by Smith and a BAF official, who was there to make sure it conformed to specifications. If the event is to become annual and attract the best jumpers, everything must be right at the first attempt.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

3.0 kick-off unless stated

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership

Aston Villa v Swindon
Everton v Ipswich
Manchester City v West Ham United
Oldham v Chelsea
Sheffield United v Coventry
Tottenham v Blackburn
Wimbledon v Newcastle

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	28	20	7	1	57	25	67
Blackburn	26	16	6	4	39	20	54
Arsenal	27	12	10	5	31	14	46
Newcastle	26	13	6	7	43	25	45
Liverpool	27	12	8	7	46	34	44
Sheff Wed	28	11	10	7	52	37	43
Leeds	27	11	10	6	39	29	43
Aston Villa	26	11	8	7	31	27	41
Norwich	26	10	10	6	42	32	40
QPR	27	11	6	10	42	36	39
West Ham	27	9	8	10	35	35	35
Coventry	27	8	10	9	29	33	34
Wimbledon	26	8	9	9	37	35	33
Ipswich	27	7	11	9	33	30	32
Everton	28	9	4	15	32	40	31
Tottenham	28	7	9	12	36	37	30
Chelsea	26	6	8	12	26	34	26
Man City	26	5	9	12	23	33	24
Southampton	27	7	8	17	27	39	24
Oldham	27	5	8	14	22	46	23
Sheff Utd	27	4	10	13	22	42	22
Swindon	28	4	10	14	31	62	22

FA TROPHY: Second round: Cheltenham v Hednesford, Cowyn Bay v Southport, Dagenham v Woking, Gateshead v Gretna; Grantham v Bishop Auckland; Grays v Bromsgrove Guiseley v Stafford, Kettering v Billingham Synthonia, Kingstonian v Merthyr Morecambe v Slough, Runcorn v Telford, Spennymoor v Halifax, Sutton v Bath (Stelling v Dover, Worcester v Macclesfield Worthing v Enfield.

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Fifth round: Bangor City v Inter Cardiff, Barry Town v Flint Town Utd.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Alan Lido v Ebbw Vale Connah's Quay v Llansantfraed, Conwy v Hotwell, Cwmbran v Tom Perrre; Lanelli v Bryon Ferry, Maesteg Park v Haverfordwest Mold v Caersws, Newtown v Aberystwyth.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards v Distillery Ballymena v Linfield, Bangor v Crusaders Carrick v Ballyclare, Cliftonville v Newry; Coleraine v Glenavon, Glentoran v Omagh Town, Portadown v Larne

Endsleigh Insurance League First division

Barnsley v Stoke
Derby v Bolton
Grimsby v Crystal Palace
Leicester v Luton
Millwall v Birmingham
Notts County v Nottingham Forest (all tickets sold)
Oxford United v Charlton
Peterborough v Middlesbrough
Sunderland v Bristol City
Watford v West Bromwich Albion
Wolverhampton v Southend

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crystal Palace	28	16	5	7	49	33	53
Charlton	29	14	6	9	45	28	48
Notts Forest	27	13	8	6	45	30	47
Millwall	28	13	8	7	39	32	47
Leicester	28	13	7	8	47	36	46
Tranmere	28	13	6	10	39	35	45
Derby	28	13	4	11	44	43	43
Wolv'hampton	28	10	13	5	42	28	43
Stoke	28	12	7	9	38	40	43
Bolton	28	11	9	8	39	33	42
Bristol City	29	11	8	10	32	33	41
Southend	28	12	4	13	44	42	40
Portsmouth	28	9	11	8	31	34	38
Middlesbrough	27	9	10	8	38	30	37
Notts County	28	11	4	13	38	47	37
Sunderland	28	11	4	13	30	36	37
Luton	27	10	5	12	35	34	35
Grimsby	28	7	13	8	34	32	34
Watford	29	8	7	14	43	57	31
West Brom	29	7	9	13	41	47	30
Birmingham	29	7	8	14	29	43	29
Barnsley	28	7	7	14	34	45	28
Oxford Utd	29	6	8	15	32	53	26
Peterborough	27	5	9	13	24	34	24

Not including the result of last night's match between Tranmere Rovers and Portsmouth

Second division

Barnet v Plymouth (all tickets)
Brighton v Hull
Bristol Rovers v Brentford
Burnley v Cardiff
Exeter v Rotherham
Fulham v Blackpool
Hartlepool v Reading
Leyton Orient v Bradford
Port Vale v Stockport
Swansea v Bournemouth
Wrexham v Huddersfield
York v Cambridge Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	29	17	7	5	56	30	58
Stockport	28	15	5	8	45	26	50
Bristol Rovers	28	14	8	6	39	31	50
Plymouth	26	14	7	5	51	35	49
Burnley	28	14	5	9	47	34	47
Brentford	29	12	11	6	37	25	47
Port Vale	26	13	7	6	44	27	46
Hull	29	12	7	10	42	40	43
Bradford	28	12	7	9	38	35	43
York	29	11	8	10	39	29	41
Leyton Orient	29	10	9	10	37	41	39
Cambridge Utd	29	10	8	11	41	43	38
Blackpool	30	11	4	15	44	53	37
Bournemouth	28	9	9	8	31	31	36
Huddersfield	27	8	8	10	29	34	32
Fulham	28	9	5	14	33	41	32
Swansea	26	8	8	10	29	35	32
Cardiff	25	7	10	8	41	41	31
Wrexham	28	8	7	11	41	47	31
Brighton	28	7	10	11	30	43	31
Rotherham	26	7	7	12	34	42	28
Exeter	25	6	7	12	32	47	25
Hartlepool	29	5	6	18	23	44	21
Barnet	27	2	7	18	25	54	13

Third division

Bury v Carlisle
Colchester v Chesterfield
Crewe v Scunthorpe
Darlington v Hereford
Lincoln v Wigan
Mansfield v Wycombe
Northampton v Scarborough
Preston v Gillingham
Shrewsbury v Rochdale
Torquay v Doncaster
Walsall v Chester

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crewe	26	16	6	4	54	34	54
Wycombe	28	13	8	5	45	35	47
Shrewsbury	25	13	7	5	40	28	46
Preston	25	12	7	6	55	40	43
Chester	26	12	7	7	41	28	43
Walsall	27	12	7	8	33	29	43
Torquay	27	10	11	6	43	39	41
Rochdale	25	11	7	7	43	25	40
Bury	27	11	5	11	39	38	38
Scunthorpe	26	9	9	8	39	26	36
Chesterfield	28	10	6	10	36	41	36
Colchester	28	10	5	11	42	49	35
Scarborough	27	10	5	12	32	37	35
Carlisle	27	8	9	10	33	29	33
Doncaster	28	9	6	13	28	40	33
Gillingham	26	8	8	10	31	35	32
Mansfield	28	8	8	12	31	42	32
Lincoln	25	8	7	10	36	42	31
Darlington	27	6	9	12	31	42	27
Wigan	28	6	7	15	34	48	25
Hereford	26	6	5	15	36	50	23
Northampton	26	3	7	16	24	48	16

GM Vauxhall Conference

Altrincham v Witton
Stalybridge v Northwich

Scottish League Premier division

Aberdeen v Raith
Dundee Utd v Motherwell
Hearts v Celtic
Kilmarnock v Partick
Rangers v Hibernian
St Johnstone v Dundee

First division

Airdrie v Ayr
Brechin v Falkirk
Clyde v Stirling
Clydebank v St Mirren
Dunfermline v Dumbarton
Morton v Hamilton

Second division

Alloa v Berwick
Arbroath v Stranraer
Cowdenbeath v Queen's Park
Meadowbank v Forfar
Montrose v East Stirling
Queen of the South v East Fife

Diadora League *Premier division*

Aylesbury v Hayes
Basingstoke v Wivenhoe
Carshalton v Wokingham
Yeading v Hendon

OTHER MATCHES: Dulwich v Chesham, Harrow v Bromley; St Albans v Molesey. First division: Abingdon v Wembley, Barking v Berkhamsted, Billericay v Boreham W, Chalfont St P v Ruislip Manor, Haybridge v Bognor; Maidenhead v Bishop's Stortford; Purfleet v Tooting; Uxbridge v Whyteleafe, Walton v Leyton, Windsor v Croydon Second division: Aldershot v Saffron Walden, Banstead v Chertsey; Collier Row v Rainham; Edgware Newbury Town: Hampton v Tilbury; Hemel Hempstead v Barton Rovers, Hungerford v Metropolitan Police, Leatherhead v Egham Town Lewes v Aveley; Thame v Witham Third division: Bracknell v Tring, Clapton v Flackwell Heath; East Thurrock v Epsom and Ewell, Feltham and Hounslow B v Cove, Harlow v Leyton, Hornchurch v Horsham, Kingsbury v Camberley, Northwood v Southall, Royston v Hertford

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Buxton, Barrow v Boston United Bridlington Town v Chorley; Horwich v Frickley; Knowsley v Droylsden; Leek v Fleetwood, Marine v Emley; Matlock v Hyde Whitley Bay v Gainsborough. First division: Ashton United v Farsley Celtic, Caernarfon v Warrington, Eastwood v Lancaster City, Goole v Curzon Ashton; Great Harwood v Worsbrough Bridge; Harrogate v Congleton, Radcliffe Borough v Alfreton, Workington v Mossley; Worksop v Netherfield

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Chelmsford; Bashley v Corby; Cambridge City v Dorchester Hastings v Gloucester, Stringbourne v Moor Green, Solihull v Trowbridge, Waterlooville v Nuneaton Midland division: Bedworth v Yate, Bilston v Redditch, Clevedon v Leicester; Dudley Town v VS Rugby, Evesham v Rushden and Diamonds, RC Warwick v Bridgnorth; Stourbridge v Hinckley Town, Sutton Coldfield v Forest Green Rovers, Tamworth v Weston-super-Mare Southern division: Baldock v Weymouth, Bury Town v Witney; Canterbury City v Braintree Town, Erith and Belvedere v Poole Town Faraham Town v Tonbridge AFC, Gravesend and Northfleet v Buckingham, Havant v Ashford Town, Margate v Burnham v Newport IOW v Dunstable, Salisbury City v Wealdstone Sudbury Town v Fisher 93

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Fulham Cambridge Utd v Gillingham, Charlton v Watford, Ipswich v Tottenham, Millwall v Portsmouth Norwich v Chelsea; QPR v Leyton Orient, Southend v West Ham. Second division: Bournemouth v Wimbledon; Brentford v Luton, Bristol City v Brighton Bristol Rovers v Swindon; Crystal Palace v Colchester; Southampton v Reading, Tottenham v Oxford Utd

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Frome, Bristol Manor Farm v Torrington; Chippenham v Exmouth, Odd Down v Taunton Town, Saltash v Elmore, Tiverton Town v Mangotsfield, Westbury v Cheddon Utd Lee Phillips Cup: Heavitree Utd v Paulton Rovers.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Blyth Spartans v Northallerton Tn Brandon Utd v Chester Le Street, Consett v Newcastle Blue Star, Durham City v Seaham Red Star; Guisborough Town v Stockton; Murton v Dunston FB, Shildon v Hebburn, Tow Law Town v Ferryhill Athletic.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES: First division: Atherton LR v Bootle, Bacup Borough v Glossop North End, Burscough v Cheadleton, Clitheroe v Flixton, Darwen v Skelmersdale Utd, Hudsgrove Athletic v Bradford Park Avenue, Newcastle Town v Maine Road, Penrith v Nantwich Town; Prescot v Blackpool Rovers, Rossendale Utd v Eastwood Hanley; St Helens Town v Salford City Challenge Cup: Third Round Ashton Town v Atherton Collieries

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup *Fifth round*

Leeds v Warrington
BNFL National Cup. Third round: South Bradford v Saddleworth (2 0), Leigh MW v Shaniston (2.0)

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship *First division*

Gloucester v Bath
Harlequins v Newcastle Gosforth
Northampton v Bristol
Orrell v London Irish
Wasps v Leicester

Second division

London Scottish v Rugby (2.30)
Nottingham v Wakefield
Sale v Otley (2.30)
Saracens v Waterloo (2.30)
West Hartlepool v Moseley

Third division

Bedford v Havant
Exeter v Fylde
Morley v Blackheath
Redruth v Richmond (2.30)
Rosslyn Park v Coventry (2.30)

Fourth division

Askeans v Broughton Park (2.30)
Clifton v Aspatria
Liverpool St Helens v Plymouth (2.30)
Sheffield v Harrogate (2.30)
Sudbury v Leeds (2.30)

Fifth division North

Bradford and B v B'ham/Solihull (2.15)
Hereford v Stoke-on-Trent (2.30)
Preston Grasshoppers v Lichfield (2.15)
Stourbridge v Kendal
Walsall v Durham (2.30)
Wrrington Park v Nuneaton (2.30)

Fifth division South

Maidstone v Berry Hill (2.45)
Met Police v High Wycombe
North Walsham v Weston-s-Mare (2.30)
Reading v Basingstoke (2.15)
Southend v Lydney (2.30)
Tabard v Camborne (2.30)

McEwan's Scottish League *First division*

Boroughmuir v Stirling C
Gala v Nelso
Henot's FP v Edin Acads
Jed-Forest v Cume
Selkirk v Melrose
Stewart's Mel FP v Hawick
W of Scotland v Watsonians

Second division

Ayr v Biggar
Glasgow H v Dundee HSFP
Haddington v Grangemouth
Kirkcaldy v Clarkston
Musselburgh v Glasgow Academicals
Peebles v Edinburgh Wanderers
Wigtownshire v Preston Lodge

Heineken Welsh League *First division*

Newbridge v Dunvant (2.30)

Insurance Corporation *Irish League First division*

Shannon v Blackrock College (2.30)
Wanderers v Garryowen (2.30)

Club Matches

Cardiff v Cambridge Univ (2.30)
Llanelli v Narberth (2.30)
Lharan v Bridgend (2.30)
London Welsh v Rotherham (2.15)
Mountain Ash v Swansea Univ (2.30)
Neath v South Wales Police (2.30)
Newport v Maesteg (2.30)
Penarth v Pontypridd (2.30)
Pontypool v Glamorgan Wnders (2.30)
Swansea v Abertillery (2.30)
Tenby Utd v Aberavon (2.30)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester v Hemel Hempstead (8 0), Oldham v Doncaster (8 0), Sunderland v Manchester (7.30), Thames Valley v Derby (8 0), Worthing v London Towers (8 0)

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Coventry Flyers v Brixton Topcats, Sheffield Forgers v Plymouth Raiders Solent Stars v Cardiff Heat Second division: Chiltern Fairbreak v Lewisham Lightning, London Elephants v Guildford Storm Stevenage Phoenix v Nottingham Cobras

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Chester Cats v Birmingham Quality Cats, Rhondda v London Jets Sheffield Hatters v Northampton 89'Ers, Thames Valley Ladies v Barking and Dagenham Bobcats. Second division: London Heat v Doncaster Free Press, Spethorne Acers v Plymouth Racers

WOMEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY Semi-final: Leicester v Cardiff

HOCKEY

PIZZA EXPRESS NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Firebrands v Canterbury (Longwood, Bristol 12 0), Slough v Weston (Birmingham University, 12 0)

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CUP: Quarter-finals: Harrogate v Reading (Ben Rhydding Hc, 1 0) Old Loughtonians v Havant (Chigwell, 2 30), Southgate v Hounslow (Broomfield School, 1 30), Teddington v Beeston (Lensbury Club 1.0)

TABLE TENNIS

BRITISH LEAGUE St Neots v Sedgefield, Bath v Horsham Angels: Wymura v Team Pen, BFL Grove v Launceston

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: English national championships (Nonwich Sport Village)

CYCLING: Perk Pedal Race (Rowlands Castle 11 0) Midland League cyclo-cross (Campbell Park, Milton Keynes, 1.0) Salisbury RC cyclo-cross, (Tinsbury, 12 0)

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Masters (Wembley Conference Centre) International Open (Bournemouth)

TENNIS. LTA men's satellite tournament (Coventry)

TOMORROW

3.0 kick-off unless stated

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership

Norwich v Arsenal (5 0)

Coca-Cola Cup *Semi-final, first leg*

Manchester Utd v Sheffield Wednesday (4 0)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Group A. Cork City v Shamrock Rovers, Derry City v Bohemians (3.30) Group B: Drogheda Utd v Cobh Ramblers (3.30), Limerick v Monaghan Utd, St Patrick's Ath v Dundalk (3.30)

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round, Whitehall Rangers v Glebe North (2.45) First-round replay: Fermoy v Bluebell Utd (2.30)

FA WOMEN'S CUP: Sixth round (2 0), Arsenal Ladies v Knowsley United, Doncaster Belles v Brighton and Hove, Epsom and Ewell v Leasowe Pacific, Preston Rangers v Stanion Rangers

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup *Fifth round*

Doncaster v Oldham
Hull v Wigan (3.15)
Hull K R v Featherstone (3.15)
Keighley v Castleford (3 15)
Whitehaven v St Helens (2 30)
Widnes v Sheffield
Workington v Bradford

Stones Bitter Championship *Second division*

Batley v London Crusaders (3 15)
Carlisle v Dewsbury (2.0).
Highfield v Swinton

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Doncaster v Leicester (5 0), Guildford v Thames Valley (5 15) London Towers v Birmingham (5.30)

JUNIOR MEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Quarter-final: Manchester v Leicester. Semi-final: London Towers v Brixton.

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Crystal Palace Mavericks v Wate Rebels Second division: Liverpool Alas v Northampton 89ers, Swindon Sonics v Mid-Sussex Magic

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Ipswich v Birmingham Quality Cats, Nottingham Wildcats v Barking and Dagenham Bobcats, South Tyneside v Chester Cats Second division: Doncaster Free Press v Sunderland Ladies, Luton Aces v London Heat

HOCKEY

PIZZA EXPRESS NATIONAL LEAGUE. First division: Firebrands v Hounslow (Longwood Bristol, 2 0) Indian Gymkhana v Stourport (Feltham School, 2.0) Reading v Canterbury (Stonning Lane, 2.0), Southgate v Havant (Broomfield School, 2.0), St Albans v Old Loughtonians (Clarence Park, 1 30) Teddington v Bromley (Teddington School, 1 15), Trojans v East Grinstead (Stoneham Lane, Eastleigh, 1 30) Postponed: Bournville v Cannock (Birmingham Uni) Second division: Barford Tigers v Cambridge City (Hollyhead LC, Birmingham, 1 15) Beeston v Brooklands (Highfields, Nottingham, 1 30); Doncaster v Harborne (Quibell Park, Scunthorpe, 1 45), Gloucester City v Richmond (Plock Court, 1 30), Harleston Magpies v Oxford University (Shotford Heath, 12 30), Ilsea v Guildford (Exeter School, 12 30), Neston v Edgbaston (Neston RC, 2 0), Surbiton v Cheltenham (Sugden Road, 2 0), Warrington v Sheffield (Broomfields Road, 12 30)

ERNST AND YOUNG MIDLANDS LEAGUE. Bloxwich v Finchfield, Coventry and North Warwickshire v Leicester Westleigh Hampton in Arden v Belper, Khalsa v Lichfield, Olton and West Warwickshire v Worcester Norton

ERNST AND YOUNG NORTH LEAGUE: Ben Rhydding v Southport, Blackburn v Hightown-Northern, Durham University v Alderley Edge, Norton v Formby, Timperley v York. Second division: Bowden v Wakefield, Disley v Tynemouth, Halifax v Swalwell, Harrogate v Stockton, Liverpool Sefton v Springfields, Ramgarhia v Bradford, Sheffield Bankers v Knutsford, Wigan v Oxton

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Clifton v Slough, FP Sutton Coldfield v Ealing; Hightown v Balsam Leicester, Ipswich v Chelmsford First division: Blueharts v Bradford Swinthenbank Doncaster v Bracknell Exmouth v Wimbledon, Pickwick v Trojans

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier division: Anchorians v Maidenhead, Chichester v Lyons, Fareham v Mid Sussex, Gore Court v Oxford Hawks, Hampstead and Westminster v Hendon, High Wycombe v Wimbledon Old Kingstonians v Dulwich, Spencer v Winchester Staines v City of Portsmouth, Tulse Hill v Old Walcountians

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedford v Old Southendian, Blueharts v Dereham Cambridge Univ v Pelicans, Chelmsford v Stevenage, Colchester v Luton, Ipswich v Norwich City, Redbridge and Ilford v Bury St Edmunds Welwyn Garden City v Bishop's Stortford Westcliff v Crosby

VOLLEYBALL

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND CUP: Semi-finals: Reebok Liverpool v Mizuno Lewisham, Tooting Aquila v Polonia Ealing

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE. Second division: Polonia Ladies v Portsmouth College; Reebok Liverpool City v Manchester United Salford Spark Jet Stationary v Team Knights, Sheffield Wednesday v Trent Fm Rockets, Birmingham Ladies v Timeout Gloucester City London Lynx v Dynamo London II

BOWLS

MANCHESTER UNITY LIBERTY TROPHY: Semi-finals Cambridgeshire v Kent (Desborough Maidenhead, 10 15), Nottinghamshire v Somerset (Foxhill, Aylesbury 12 0)

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: English national championships (Norwich Sport Village)

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Masters (Wembley Conference Centre)

TENNIS. LTA Men's Satellite (Coventry), LTA Women's Satellite (Sunderland).

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Large Action has class to counter inexperience

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

LARGE Action can justify Champion Hurdle aspirations by becoming only the third novice to win the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury today. Oliver Sherwood's exciting six-year-old has jumped hurdles only four times in public but is already the leading member of his generation in Britain and yesterday his jockey, Jamie Osborne, could not have been more bullish about his prospects today.

"He is in good order and we could not be more pleased with him. This has been the objective for a month now. His main target is Cheltenham; the question is which race? I hope he will tell us tomorrow." Osborne said. "He is a good horse. He lacks experience for a race like the Tote Gold Trophy but, hopefully, his class will compensate.

The rain, which made the going heavy and temporarily threatened yesterday's card, should help his cause as it will slow the race down and not put an excessive strain on his hurdling, which was not foot-perfect earlier in the season.

Osborne added: "As has been well publicised, his jumping has been a concern to us from the day he started. With that in mind, he has done a lot of schooling since his last run. He will never be a spectacular jumper, but he is proficient now."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BRAVE BUCCANEER (3.15 Newbury)

Next best: Large Action (2.15 Newbury)

Flakey Dove is at the top of her form but her Cleeve Hurdle success against Sweet Duke and Mole Board reads only marginally better than her victory at Haydock a week earlier. Richard Price's mare will revel in the mud, but is arguably better over a longer trip.

A strict form line through Fatack, twice runner-up to Large Action, gives High Baron a slight edge over my selection but the ground and the progressive form shown by **Large Action** makes him a confident choice. Oh So Risky should run well but would prefer better going.

Mary Reveley has a fair share of runners scattered around the country today but the decision of her stable jockey, Peter Niven, to make the journey south to ride **Brave Buccaneer**, her sole representative at Newbury, should not be ignored.

At Warwick a month ago, the promising stayer was having his first run since moving from David Murray Smith's yard. Over an inadequate trip, he was given a sympathetic ride which should pay dividends today when the course and distance winner runs in the Levy Board Handicap Hurdle.

Peter Beaumont has his string in tip-top form and his stable star, **Jodami**, can continue the good run by taking the Hennessy Cognac Irish Gold Cup at Leopardstown tomorrow at the main expense of Chatam.

Flashing Steel, the subject of Cheltenham Gold Cup support this week, was declared for the race yesterday but is far from certain to line up if the going deteriorates.

LEOPARDSTOWN TOMORROW

GOING: HEAVY

3.45 HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP
(Listed race: Ir£43,125: 3m) (7 runners)

1 03-2216 CAHERVILLAHOW (Mrs M Valentine) M Morris 10-12-0 .... N Williamson 81
2 11/42V-2 CHATAM (A Nolan) M Pipe (GB) 10-12-0 .... R Dunwoody 89
3 3F-1181 DEEP BRAMBLE (J Mernagh) M Hourigan 7-12-0 .... P Niven 82
4 110-112 FLASHING STEEL (C Haughey) J Mulhern 9-12-0 .... K O'Brien 81
5 40-0200 GOLD OPTIONS (B) (J McCaghy) P McCreery 12-12-0 .... L Wyer 80
6 11-F133 JODAMI (J Yeadon) P Beaumont (GB) 9-12-0 .... M Dwyer [illegible]
7 101F3-5 FORCE SEVEN (Mrs C Moore) P Mullins 7-11-9 .... A Maguire 81

BETTING: 5-4 Jodami, 5-2 Chatam, 5-1 Flashing Steel, 6-1 Deep Bramble, 10-1 Force Seven, 16-1 Cahervillahow, 33-1 Gold Options.

1993: JODAMI 8-12-0 M Dwyer (11-8 fav) P Beaumont 7 ran



JULIAN HERBERT

Mysilv, ridden by Adrian Maguire, is clear at the final flight of the Stroud Green Hurdle at Newbury

Weather forces Henderson's hand

By Julian Muscat

THE Nottinghamshire Novices' Chase a week today is developing into a fitting tribute to Michael Seely, the former racing correspondent of *The Times* in whose memory the race is being run. Jimmy Fitzgerald's unbeaten fencer, Native Mission, is likely to be joined in the line-up by Current Express, who was withdrawn from yesterday's Aldermaston Novices' Chase at Newbury after heavy overnight rain.

Nicky Henderson had little option but to pull out his good-ground performer on his arrival at the Berkshire course. Heavy ground has also scuppered the intended re-appearance of the same trainer's Remittance Man, who now has the Emblem Chase, at Kempton later this month, on his agenda.

"I'd love to send Current Express to Nottingham," Henderson said yesterday. "He missed last season on account of his legs so it wouldn't be fair to race him on this sort of ground. Hopefully, it will be better at Nottingham next week."

Badly as Current Express needs further experience, the situation is even more critical where Remittance Man is concerned. Opportunities for two-mile chasers of his calibre are rare, and Henderson may have no choice but to start the horse on ground similar to that in which he injured a tendon at Huntingdon 15 months ago.

He said of his 1991 Queen Mother Champion Chase winner: "It's nearly impossible to find something for him. If it comes up soft at Kempton I think we'll have to run him. Otherwise we will be going to Cheltenham without an outing, which wouldn't be ideal."

David Nicholson, by contrast, has run into no such difficulties in preparing Mysilv for the Triumph Hurdle. Unbeaten in three previous outings, the filly returned hungry from her eight-week break to mesmerise Burnt Imp in the Stroud Green Hurdle. Adrian Maguire eased Mysilv fully a furlong from home; she almost trotted past the winning post for a seven-length verdict which in no way reflected her crushing superiority.

Nicholson has resisted the temptation to go for the Champion Hurdle. "We would have to be pleased if she finished third or fourth in the big one, but winning is everything as far as I am concerned," said the trainer, who was landing his fiftieth winner of the season. No favourite has won the gruelling contest since Attivo twenty years ago, but Mysilv, the 3-1 favourite with Ladbrokes to buck that trend, will warm up in the Adonis Hurdle at Kempton.

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

1.30 Andermatt
2.00 Honest Word
2.30 Sheer Ability
3.00 Local Manor
3.30 Do Be Have
4.00 Mount Argus
4.30 Rafters

Brian Beel: 4.00 Mount Argus

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) SIS

1.30 GULF AIR HANDICAP HURDLE C4
(£3,501: 2m 6f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 42-00P6 HOLY JOE 40 (F,S) (Mrs J Brookes) A J Wilson 12-11-10 .... T Jenks (5) 98
2 560200 ANDERMATT 28 (CD,S) (The Marston Sept) J Mackie 7-11-3 .... R Dunwoody 97
3 300-110 BICKERMAN 11 (B,C,F,G,S) (B Dowling) J Spearing 11-10-10 .... Miss T Spearing (7) 85
4 1411P-P ROCHESTOWN LASS 28 (V,CD,G,S) (Miss C Perkins) P Dalton 8-10-8 .... N Mann 86
5 35-5220 FURRY BABY 4 (BF,G,S) (K Hanson) M Avison 7-10-7 .... R Marley [illegible]
6 530145 HIGH GRADE 4 (BF,G,S) (Under Orders Racing) Miss S Wilton 6-10-5 .... T Eley (5) 97
7 526-438 POLLERTON'S PRIDE 87 (D,G,S) (G Greaves) W Clay 7-10-0 .... Diane Clay 90
8 085F/0P SHIKARI KID 87 (F,S) (P Riddick) C Beever 7-10-0 .... Mr K Green –

Long handicap: Pollerton's Pride 9-8, Shikari Kid 8-8.

BETTING: 5-2 Andermatt, 3-1 Bickerman, 4-1 Furry Baby, 6-1 High Grade, 10-1 Rochestown Lass, 12-1 Holy Joe, 14-1 Pollerton's Pride, 33-1 Shikari Kid.

1993: ANDERMATT 6-10-13 N Williamson (7-1) J Mackie 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

HOLY JOE 42l 6th of 10 to Toogood To Be True in a handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, soft) with ANDERMATT (2lb worse off) 21l 8th. ANDERMATT 13l 7th of 24 to Toogood To Be True in a handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, heavy) with ROCHESTOWN LASS (6lb better off) tailed off when pulled up before 3 out. BICKERMAN beat ANDERMATT (6lb better off) 4l in a 9-runner handicap hurdle here (2m 4f 110yd, heavy) on penultimate start. FURRY BABY 5l 2nd of 9 to Bollin Magdalene in a handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (3m, soft) on penultimate start. HIGH GRADE 13l 4th of 10 to Meditator in a handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: FURRY BABY

2.00 J & B NOVICES' CHASE C4
(For The Animal Health Trust: £7,405: 3m 2f) (3 runners)

1 /10/611 HONEST WORD 10 (G,S) (Mrs H Clarke) M Pipe 9-11-8 .... R Dunwoody 96
2 2/341-F1 TARAMOSS 16 (S) (H Parker) J Edwards 7-11-8 .... J Railton 73
3 253/3-21 ROUYAN 7 (F,G,S) (P Manes) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-4 .... I Lawrence [illegible]

BETTING: 8-11 Honest Word, 7-4 Rouyan, 5-1 Taramoss.

1993: CAPTAIN FRISK 10-11-8 J Railton (13-2) K Bailey 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

HONEST WORD jumped well to beat beat Dolly Oats 25l in a 7-runner novice chase at Leicester (3m, good to soft). TARAMOSS beat Carriglawn 15l in a 7-runner novice chase at Huntingdon (3m, soft). ROUYAN beat Bollinger 7l in a 10-runner novice chase at Stratford (3m, soft).
Selection: HONEST WORD

2.30 SINGER & FRIEDLANDER HANDICAP CHASE C4
(£6,873: 2m 7f) (5 runners)

1 11/P5P-3 KEEP TALKING 85 (F,G) (Queen Elizabeth) T Thomson Jones 9-11-10 .... S Smith Eccles 85
2 0-24405 WILLSFORD 11 (B,C,G,S) (A Kaplan) Mrs J Pitman 11-10-11 .... I Lawrence [illegible]
3 1-1F111 SHEER ABILITY 12 (D,S) (M Devlin) C Mann 8-10-7 .... R Dunwoody 90
4 4-21365 WIDE BOY 14 (F,G,S) (M Popham) P Hobbs 12-10-6 .... Guy Lewis (7) 96
5 213112 KALANSKI 12 (D,G,S) (I Kerman) C Egerton 8-10-2 .... J Railton 90

BETTING: 2-1 Sheer Ability, 9-4 Kalanski, 7-2 Willsford, 11-2 Wide Boy, 10-1 Keep Talking.

1993: STIRRUP CUP 9-11-5 G Bradley (6-4 fav) C Egerton 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

KEEP TALKING best recent effort when 10½l 5th of 13 to Jodami in a handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, soft). WILLSFORD 31½l 5th of 25 to Bollin Magdalene in a handicap hurdle at Nottingham (2m 5f 110yd, soft). SHEER ABILITY beat KALANSKI (1lb better off) ¾l in a 8-runner handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, good to soft). WIDE BOY 22½l 5th of 8 to Waterloo Boy in a handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, soft). KALANSKI beat Lucky Lane 2½l in an 8-runner novice chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, heavy).
Selection: WIDE BOY

3.00 MARSTONS PEDIGREE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE C4
(£4,999: 2m) (6 runners)

1 R0-1232 PEACEMAN 17 (D,G,S) (Sir P Gibbings) Mrs D Haine 8-11-10 .... E Murphy 90
2 1 NAKIR 18 (D,S) (J Lewis) S Christian 6-11-10 .... R Dunwoody 94
3 6-56P23 MISTER ODDY 17 (S) (Mrs R Hill) J King 8-10-1 .... T Jenks (5) 92
4 000-022 LOCAL MANOR 22 (Mrs C Harrington) O Sherwood 7-10-0 .... M Richards [illegible]
5 FFU-U85 ELITE LEO 15 (Miss N Cooper) P Hobbs 9-10-0 .... C Maude –
6 /0FF6 VERSATILE 44 (S) (Mrs B Cox) Mrs S Williams 10-10-0 .... S McNeill 83

Long handicap: Versatile 9-5.

BETTING: 7-4 Nakir, 5-2 Local Manor, 3-1 Peaceman, 11-2 Mister Oddy, 14-1 Elite Leo, 25-1 Versatile.

1993: TRIMLOUGH 8-11-10 N Mann (7-2) P Dalton 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

PEACEMAN 10l 2nd of 7 to Cabochon in a novice chase at Lingfield (2m, heavy) with MISTER ODDY (18lb better off) 12l 3rd. NAKIR beat Front Line 4l in an 8-runner novice chase at Nottingham (2m, soft). MISTER ODDY 5l 2nd of 5 to The Flying Footman in a novice chase at Warwick (2m, soft). LOCAL MANOR 1½l 2nd of 6 to Jumbeau in a novice chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). ELITE LEO 26l 5th of 22 to Warfield in a handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to soft). VERSATILE tailed off 6th of 7 to Cardinal Bird in a handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, heavy).
Selection: LOCAL MANOR

3.30 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£1,956: 3m 110yd) (4 runners)

1 12 CORNER BOY 19 (F) (Mrs E Wilson) D Nicholson 7-11-2 .... R Dunwoody 94
2 122F13 GRAY'S ELLERGY 7 (G,S) (W Dore) D Gandolfo 8-11-0 .... J Railton [illegible]
3 36/02 DO BE HAVE 10 (D Waller) Mrs J Pitman 6-10-12 .... I Lawrence 81
4 0 JURASSIC CLASSIC 11 (T Hewitt) J Mackie 7-10-12 .... T Eley (5) 72

BETTING: 6-4 Gray's Ellergy, 13-8 Corner Boy, 5-2 Do Be Have, 25-1 Jurassic Classic.

1993: I'M TOBY 6-11-5 S Smith Eccles (6-4 fav) Jimmy Fitzgerald 13 ran

4.00 MOUNT ARGUS HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,945: 2m 7f) (14 runners)

1 102PP-1 FIFTH AMENDMENT 8 (B,F,G,S) (R Ponsonby) C Mann 9-12-7 .... R Ponsonby (7) 92
2 P0/P63- AH JIM LAD 350 (A McPherson) Miss L Eaton 10-12-0 .... A McPherson (7) 53
3 30444-2 ARCTIC TEAL 21P (C,F,G,S) (Mrs P Robeson) Mrs P Robeson 10-12-0 .... J Durkan (3) 95
4 404U0-0 ASTRE RADIEUX 14P (G,S) (P McKie) J O'Shea 9-12-0 .... C Stockton (7) 89
5 04211F- CELTIC FLEET 294P (B,C,F,G,S) J Spearing 13-12-0 .... Miss T Spearing (7) –
6 223322- CENTRE ATTRACTION 280P (F,G,S) N Mason 15-12-0 .... Miss Y Beckingham (7) 72
7 201414- HARLEY 273 (F,G,S) (Miss J Eaton) Miss J Eaton 14-12-0 .... D McCain (5) 89
8 1/P3231- KONRAD WOLF 285P (B,F) (Mrs H Clarke) S Brookshaw 10-12-0 .... J Barlow (7) –
9 1/22611- MOUNT ARGUS 288 (C,F,G,S) S Brookshaw 12-12-0 .... S Brookshaw (5) [illegible]
10 50-U414 PORTAVOGIE 108 (F,G,S) (J Lynch) Mrs J Brown 10-12-0 .... R Brown (5) 85
11 1P5-U31 QUEEN'S CHAPLAIN 14P (F,G,S) Mrs M Morris 10-12-0 .... Mrs M Morris (7) 73
12 1313/ ROYAL GREEK 644 (F,G,S) (R Jones) P Mooris 12-12-0 .... R Jones (7) –
13 4U0P-UP SPORTING MARINER 8 (B,C,F,G,S) (D Bloor) D Bloor 12-12-0 .... D Bloor (7) –
14 U11- THE ARTFUL RASCAL 308P (F,S) (C Coxen) R Astos 10-12-0 .... C Barlow (7) –

☐ Form figures include point-to-points

BETTING: 5-2 Mount Argus, 3-1 Fifth Amendment, 5-1 Konrad Wolf, 7-1 Queen's Chaplain, 9-1 Celtic Fleet, 10-1 Harley, 12-1 The Artful Rascal, Portavogie, 14-1 others.

1993: CRAFTY COPPER 9-11-7 Mr B Leavy (12-1) P Bradley 9 ran

4.30 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,914: 2m) (6 runners)

1 00-200 SMITH'S BAND 11 (A Smith) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-10 .... I Lawrence 95
2 0024P1 RAFTERS 7 (D,S) (M Carver) J Bradley 5-11-2 .... R Dunwoody [illegible]
3 0803 UPWARD SURGE 8 (Racing Club) K Bailey 4-10-6 .... S McNeill 88
4 0-23152 SAINT CIEL 57 (D,BF,S) (Tam Racing) F Jordan 6-10-8 .... R Supple 89
5 0P0/30 MAHONG 47 (V,BF) (T Parrott) Mrs H Parrott 6-10-0 .... V Slattery 80
6 PUP-FP5 SHARPSIDE 18 (S) (G Green) P Hobbs 7-10-0 .... C Maude –

Long handicap: Mahong 9-2, Sharpside 8-11.

BETTING: 6-4 Rafters, 3-1 Saint Ciel, 4-1 Upward Surge, 5-1 Smith's Band, 12-1 Mahong, 16-1 Sharpside.

1993: LAND AFAR 6-11-3 A Webb (16-1) J Webber 11 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
S Brookshaw	3	5	60.0	S Smith Eccles	12	51	23.5
M Pipe	38	119	31.9	S McNeill	8	35	22.9
P Dalton	6	21	28.6	R Dunwoody	25	117	21.4
O Sherwood	13	51	25.5	N Mann	8	42	19.0
J Spearing	3	12	25.0	J Railton	8	55	14.5
K Bailey	12	51	23.5	T Eley	7	56	12.5

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Wolverhampton (AW), Hereford, Plumpton.
TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW), Newton Abbot, Towcester.
WEDNESDAY: Folkestone, Sedgefield, Southwell, Worcester.
THURSDAY: Lingfield Park, Leicester, Sandown Park, Taunton.
FRIDAY: Southwell (AW), Edinburgh, Fakenham, Sandown Park.
SATURDAY: Lingfield Park (AW), Chepstow, Newcastle, Nottingham, Windsor, †Wolverhampton (AW).

Flat meetings in bold; † denotes evening meeting

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

1.10 Catchapenny
1.40 Egypt Mill Prince
2.15 Nikitas
2.45 Ghia Gneuiagh
3.15 BRAVE BUCCANEER (nap)
3.45 Uncle Eli
4.15 Filthy Reesh

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 FLAKEY DOVE.

GOING: SOFT, HEAVY PATCHES (CHASE COURSE), HEAVY (HURDLES) SIS

1.10 MANDARIN HANDICAP CHASE BBC1
(£7,096: 3m 2f 110yd) (9 runners)

101 34-2331 FIGHTING WORDS 46 (F,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 8-11-13 .... D Murphy 95
102 3U2-1UP ROCKTOR 100 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs G Watkinson-Yull) D Barons 9-11-6 .... J Frost 85
103 F4U-F32 BISHOPS ISLAND 61 (BF,S) (Lord Vestey) D Nicholson 8-11-3 .... A Maguire 90
104 232315- STRONG BEAU 290 (G,S) (Mrs G Maxwell-Jones) D Nicholson 9-11-1 .... W Marston 86
105 412112- FIT FOR FIRING 413 (F,G,S) (S Manana) D Elsworth 10-10-12 .... P Holley 80
106 3-1432E GRANGE BRAKE 3 (B,C,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-10 .... C Llewellyn 94
107 223-122 RATHVINDEN HOUSE 42 (C,G,S) (B Lovrey) T Thomson Jones 7-10-8 .... B Powell 93
108 3U4-120 CHANNELS GATE 15 (D,BF,G,S) (Cabalsa Racing) J Edwards 10-10-8 .... N Williamson 91
109 114-621 CATCHAPENNY 22 (B,D,G,S) (C Courage) M Wilkinson 9-10-2 .... P Ward (7) [illegible]

BETTING: 3-1 Catchapenny, 7-2 Rathvinden House, 6-1 Bishops Island, 7-1 Strong Beau, 8-1 Fighting Words, Fit For Firing, 10-1 Rocktor, 12-1 Channels Gate, 14-1 Grange Brake.

1993: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

FIGHTING WORDS beat Dublin Flyer 3½l in a 5-runner handicap chase at Kempton (3m, good to soft). ROCKTOR's best recent effort came when beating Far Senior 3½l in a 6-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good). BISHOPS ISLAND 2½l 2nd of 5 to Menebuck in a handicap chase at Warwick (3m 4f 110yd, soft). FIT FOR FIRING 1l 2nd of 9 to Flashing Wild in a handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). GRANGE BRAKE 23½l 6th of 6 to Dubacilla in a handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, soft). RATHVINDEN HOUSE 1l 2nd of 10 to Antonin in a handicap chase over course and distance (soft), with GRANGE BRAKE 25l 3rd. CATCHAPENNY beat Annio Chilone 12l in a 10-runner conditional jockeys' handicap chase at Kempton (3m, good to soft).
Selection: CATCHAPENNY

1.40 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN GAME SPIRIT CHASE BBC1
(Grade II: £15,480: 2m 1f) (5 runners)

201 11-2221 DEEP SENSATION 30 (CD,F,G,S) (R Eliot) J Gifford 9-11-10 .... D Murphy 89
202 111-221 VIKING FLAGSHIP 23 (D,F,G,S) (Roach Foods Ltd) D Nicholson 7-11-10 .... A Maguire 89
203 1113-13 SYBILLIN 21 (D,F,G,S) (Marquesa de Moratalla) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-11-7 .... M Dwyer [illegible]
204 121021 EGYPT MILL PRINCE 15 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (S Webb) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-3 .... G Bradley 88
205 222-222 WONDER MAN 7 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs S Roberts) D Nicholson 9-11-3 .... J Osborne 95

BETTING: 9-4 Sybillin, 11-4 Viking Flagship, 7-2 Wonder Man, 11-2 Deep Sensation, 6-1 Egypt Mill Prince.

1993: WATERLOO BOY 10-11-7 R Dunwoody (9-4) D Nicholson 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

DEEP SENSATION beat Elfast 1l in a 6-runner conditions chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to soft). VIKING FLAGSHIP beat EGYPT MILL PRINCE (1lb better off) 2l in the 4-runner grade II Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Warwick (2m, heavy). SYBILLIN 22l 2nd of 5 to Flakey Dove in the grade II Haydock Park Champion Hurdle Trial (2m, soft). Previously, beat DEEP SENSATION (3lb worse off) 1½l in 7-runner grade II Tingle Creek Handicap Chase at Sandown (2m, good). EGYPT MILL PRINCE beat Setter Country 8l in a 6-runner handicap chase at Wincanton (2m, good to soft). WONDER MAN neck 3nd of 5 to Storm Alert in a handicap chase at Sandown (2m, soft).
Selection: SYBILLIN

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Miss A Whitfield	3	7	42.9	J Osborne	34	153	22.2
M Pipe	[illegible]	92	27.2	P Holley	12	58	20.7
O Sherwood	[illegible]	38	26.1	J Frost	13	77	16.9
G Harwood	5	22	22.7	G McCourt	10	68	14.7
N Henderson	27	121	22.3	M Perrett	10	70	14.3
D Nicholson	21	97	21.6	C Llewellyn	9	63	14.3

2.15 TOTE GOLD TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE BBC1
(Grade III: £33,305: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

301 323456- OH SO RISKY 133F (CD,F,G) (The Oh So Risky Syndicate) D Elsworth 7-12-0 .... P Holley 82
302 434211 FLAKEY DOVE 14 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Price) R Price 8-11-1 .... N Williamson [illegible]
303 10-1410 LAND AFAR 35 (D,G,S) (T Ford) J Webber 7-10-12 .... W Marston 87
304 105322 HIGH BARON 21 (D,BF,F,S) (Miss C James) R Alner 7-10-10 .... M Hourigan 97
305 01-2111 LARGE ACTION 42 (CD,G,S) (B Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 6-10-8 .... J Osborne 90
306 311-212 THUMBS UP 46 (D,BF,F,S) (M Buckley) N Henderson 8-10-4 .... M A Fitzgerald 80
307 261021- HER HONOUR 296 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Farrant) M Pipe 5-10-0 .... J Lower 82
308 120350 WELSHMAN 35 (D,F,G,S) (B Oxton) M Blanshard 8-10-0 .... D Gallagher 86
309 100-031 NIJMEGEN 21 (D,S) (W Hancock) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-10-0 .... M Dwyer 91
310 2565-25 WINNIE THE WITCH 86 (D,F,G,S) (Paddocks Racing) K Bridgwater 10-10-0 .... D Bridgwater 79
311 522311 NIKITAS 7 (CD,F,G,S) (Miss A Whitfield) Miss A Whitfield 9-10-0 .... A Maguire 84

Long handicap: Her Honour 9-13, Welshman 9-10, Nijmegen 9-9, Winnie The Witch 9-4, Nikitas 9-1

BETTING: 7-2 Flakey Dove, 4-1 Large Action, 9-2 High Baron, 7-1 Nijmegen, 8-1 Thumbs Up, 10-1 Land Afar, 12-1 Oh So Risky, 14-1 Her Honour, 16-1 Nikitas, 33-1 Winnie The Witch, 40-1 Welshman.

1993: KING CREDO 8-10-0 A Maguire (10-1) S Woodman 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

OH SO RISKY 8¾l 5th of 18 to Granville Again in the grade I Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm), with FLAKEY DOVE (3lb better off) 14l 7th. FLAKEY DOVE beat Sweet Duke 6l in the 7-runner grade I Cleeve Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). LARGE ACTION beat Corrouge 3½l in 7-runner grade I Challow Hurdle here (2m 5f, soft). THUMBS UP 2½l 2nd of 4 to San Lorenzo in a novice chase at Kempton (2m, good to soft). HER HONOUR beat Cariboo Gold ½l in a 9-runner novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to firm). NIJMEGEN beat HIGH BARON 1½l (5lb better off) 5l in a 10-runner handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to soft). NIKITAS beat Kristen Tycoon 2½l in a 7-runner handicap hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, soft).
Selection: FLAKEY DOVE (nap)

2.45 KUNG HEI FAT CHOY NOVICES CHASE (£3,525: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

401 F2-11F1 JUMBEAU 22 (D,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 9-11-12 .... P Hide (3) 80
402 13U1R3 THE GLOW 14 (D,G,S) (Mrs T Brown) D Elsworth 6-11-12 .... P Holley 91
403 244F2F GHIA GNEUIAGH 7 (D,G,S) (Mrs S Scott) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-8 .... C Llewellyn [illegible]
404 405-1U3 HILLWALK 63 (D,G) (M Stone) R Curtis 8-11-8 .... D Morris 83
405 P06/060 VICAR OF BRAY 52 (BF) (The Clerical Partnership) C Bandey 7-11-4 .... E Leonard –
406 P0-625P VILLA RECOS 7 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Heeley) A Barrow 9-11-4 .... B Powell 73

BETTING: 2-1 Ghia Gneuiagh, 5-2 The Glow, 3-1 Jumbeau, 5-1 Hillwalk, 8-1 Villa Recos, 20-1 Vicar Of Bray

1993: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

3.15 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,655: 3m 110yd) (10 runners)

501 32/4-44U EVERALDO 11 (C,D,G,S) (M Arbib) N Henderson 10-12-0 .... M A Fitzgerald 96
502 4-02322 MIZYAN 31 (BF,G) (E Carver) J Banks 6-10-11 .... A Maguire 96
503 4/4132-0 BRAVE BUCCANEER 28 (CD,G,S) (C Halliday) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-4 .... P Niven 92
504 110-0P3 METAL OISEAU 3 (B,D,G,S) (F Ivory) J Moore 6-10-2 .... A Charlton [illegible]
505 215134 ULURU 40 (D,G) (P Morgan) C Nash 6-10-1 .... C Llewellyn 94
506 21-PU4P LEGAL BEAGLE 65 (CD,G,S) (R Miller) G Harwood 7-10-0 .... M Perrett 94
507 50-4345 CAIRNCASTLE 47 (D,F,G,S) (Miss S Steel) C Barwell 9-10-0 .... B Clifford 94
508 51P/622 FLYER'S NAP 18 (D,BF,S) (P Tory) R Alner 8-10-0 .... S Earle 92
509 50-230P EMERALD SUNSET 47 (CD,G) (Mrs G Davison) Mrs M Long 9-10-0 .... D Gallagher 94
510 231-P40 RIMOUSKI 11 (D,G) (B Cambidge) B Cambidge 6-10-0 .... Mr J Cambidge 83

Long handicap: Cairncastle 9-13, Flyer's Nap 9-10, Emerald Sunset 9-6, Rimouski 9-1

BETTING: 7-2 Brave Buccaneer, 9-2 Uluru, 6-1 Everaldo, 7-1 Mizyan, 8-1 Flyer's Nap, Legal Beagle, Metal Oiseau, 10-1 Cairncastle, 14-1 Emerald Sunset, 40-1 Rimouski

1993: SIMPSON 6-11-4 C Llewellyn (7-2 fav) J Old 10 ran

3.45 HARWELL HANDICAP CHASE (£4,338: 2m 4f) (4 runners)

601 112-PC3 ANOTHER CORAL 47 (CD,F,G,S) (M Seeley) D Nicholson 11-12-0 .... A Maguire 93
602 F/F241-1 UNCLE ELI 21 (CD,G,S) (J Burley) R Alner 11-10-5 .... S Earle [illegible]
603 23/563-2 ELFAST 30 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Webber) J Webber 11-10-3 .... G McCourt 98
604 U5-45F1 KENTISH PIPER 28 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs G Pepper) N Gaselee 9-10-0 .... C Llewellyn 83

Long handicap: Kentish Piper 9-7

BETTING: 2-1 Uncle Eli, 9-4 Another Coral, 11-4 Kentish Piper, 3-1 Elfast

1993: MR ENTERTAINER 10-10-13 C Llewellyn (4-1) N Gaselee 5 ran

4.15 YEAR OF THE DOG NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,116: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

1 0-152 WITH IMPUNITY 18 (D,S) (Guest Bloodstock) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-3 .... C Llewellyn 90
2 2-04 BRAVE HIGHLANDER 30 (S Embiricos) J Gifford 6-11-4 .... D Murphy 90
3 ,60U/0-3 CASTLE ORCHARD 67 (E Coate) P Hayward 10-11-4 .... A Maguire 50
4 0 FILTHY REESH 34 (BF) (N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-4 .... D Bridgwater –
5 00-3222 KEEP ME IN MIND 15 (P Tory) N Mitchell 5-11-4 .... C Skyrme [illegible]
6 G5 LE BARON PERCHE 22 (Miss J King) C James 5-11-4 .... M A Fitzgerald –
7 5/00-P NIGHT FANCY 21 (Mrs A Woodrow) Mrs A Woodrow 6-11-4 .... J McCarthy (5) –
8 P-P ALL THE JOLLY 9 (Miss C Carter) Miss C Caroe 6-10-13 .... I Lawrence –
9 0 ANLACE 22 (The Felix Bowness Partnership) S Mellor 5-10-13 .... M Perrett –
10 0-606 FLAPPING FREDA 58 (J Maguire) J Jenkins 6-10-13 .... N Williamson 62
11 01539-4 KNOCKAVERRY 93 (S) (Mrs W Morrell) M Wilkinson 6-10-13 .... P Ward (7) –
12 G MA BELLA LUNA 10 (Mrs M Watson) J Moore 5-10-13 .... A Charlton –
13 00 BONE SETTER 17 (M Fox) S Mellor 4-10-7 .... Chris Webb (7) –
14 6 CALIANDAK 14 (G Leatham) N Tinkler 4-10-7 .... G McCourt 60
15 605 MONAZITE 14 (Acrum Racing Ltd) J McConnochie 4-10-7 .... R Bellamy 91

BETTING: 9-2 Keep Me In Mind, 5-1 Knockaverry, 6-1 Brave Highlander, Caliandak, 8-1 Castle Orchard, Filthy Reesh, 10-1 Monazite, With Impunity, 14-1 Le Baron Perche, 16-1 Ma Bella Luna, 20-1 Bone Setter, 33-1 others

1993: ROLL A DOLLAR 7-11-4 P Holley (7-1) D Elsworth 20 ran

Viking Flagship can battle home

NEWBURY
BBC1

1.10: Strong Beau, winner of the Fulke Walwyn-Kim Muir Chase at Cheltenham on his last run, makes a belated seasonal reappearance and may just need the race in preparation for this year's festival.

The bold-jumping Fighting Words has been raised only 1lb for comprehensively beating Dublin Flyer at Kempton and, if he stays the extra distance, has a sound chance. But, with a doubt about his stamina, it may be wise to side with proven stayers. Catchapenny should revel in these conditions after returning to winning form at Kempton. He narrowly beat **Rathvinden House** in a good race at Uttoxeter last year, but the Tim Thomson Jones chaser can gain revenge on 6lb better terms.

1.40: In a race oozing class, the courage and tenacity of **Viking Flagship** could prove crucial. Egypt Mill Prince (whom he beat at Warwick) is sure to set a sound pace which will suit the other runners. Sybillin, Deep Sensation and Wonder Man all possess a high cruising speed but are not always the gamest finishers. In the battle to the line, Viking Flagship can be guaranteed to stick his neck out — and advertise his Queen Mother Chase credentials.

2.15: see above

UTTOXETER
C4

1.30: Richard Dunwoody can start the afternoon on a winning note aboard Andermatt, a course and distance winner. After disappointing at Cheltenham, the seven-year-old ran with credit in a big field at Warwick last time. He is weighted to reverse a defeat by Bickerman on this course in December. Furry Baby and High Grade, favourites for their respective races earlier in the week, both disappointed.

2.00: Honest Word will start at short odds to dispose of his two rivals and cannot realistically be opposed. After a long lay-off, Martin Pipe's novice had a gentle reintroduction over hurdles before making a deep impression in his two outings over fences. Rouyan, a wide-margin winner last time out, is preferred to Taramoss for the forecast. The latter's Huntingdon victory was gained from the only other horse to complete the course.

2.30: Sheer Ability and Kalanski are inseparable on their recent Plumpton encounter, when the former, now 1lb worse off, got home by threequarters of a length. Preference is for Sheer Ability, but both appear vulnerable over this longer trip.

Given the circumstances, it may be worth chancing that **Willsford** is in one of his more co-operative moods. A confirmed mudlark, Jenny Pitman's horse is regularly switched between hurdles and fences, and he comes here after recent two spins over timber which should have sweetened him up.

3.00: **Local Manor** has taken well to fences and appeals from the bottom of the handicap. This race should suit Oliver Sherwood's seven-year-old, who likes to race prominently and can strike from off the fast pace likely to be set by Peaceman. That he stays further will be to his advantage in this testing ground. Nakir can follow Local Manor home even though he looks harshly treated for his debut victory over fences at Nottingham. Mister Oddy, although consistent, seems short of pace.

Julian Muscat



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Burrough loses appeal

SIMON Burrough yesterday lost his appeal against a ten-day ban for his riding of Just So in the John Hughes Grand National Trial at Chepstow last Saturday.

The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee heard evidence from Burrough and a steward at the Chepstow meeting and viewed a video of the race before confirming the decision.

They found that Burrough had used his whip with unreasonable frequency, wealed and injured the horse, hit him in the wrong place and hit him when clearly winning. Burrough's suspension begins on Monday.

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صكتا من الاهل

Success of Alvarez brightens slow day

From Mel Webb in Tenerife

THERE was the story of the football-playing golfer and another of a man who does not know if he is Spanish or American and is not even 100 per cent sure what his name is. There was enough happening on an otherwise slow day at the Tenerife Open yesterday to prove that life on the PGA European Tour is rarely boring.

The halfway lead at Golf del Sur was jointly held on 137, seven under par, by José María Cañizares, the seasoned Spaniard, and Rubén Alvarez, who had a 65, and it was from Alvarez that the day's first tale of the unexpected surfaced.

Alvarez, 32, became a professional golfer 11 years ago while he was still playing first division football in his native Argentina. He was a midfield player for five years for Defensores Unidos, and it was the frustration of playing for a small club with low money and few prospects that finally persuaded him to give up the game and turn to golf full-time.

This is his second year in Europe, the first having been far from a bed of roses. By two-thirds of the way through the year he must have been wondering if he had made the right decision in crossing the Atlantic.

By the end of the season, he had finished 145th in the money list and, with his best performance undoubtedly the five goals he had scored in a match between the players and the Tour staff, he probably wished he had not given up football in the first place. In that game you can at least blame the other ten if you play like a novice.

He got his player's card back at the Tour qualifying school, and his round yesterday was his best in Europe. Starting on the 10th, he birdied five out of the first six holes, turned in 31, and came back in 34 with two more birdies in the bag.

At least Alvarez knows exactly who he is, which is more than can be said for one P Linhart, who had a 64, the best round of the tournament thus far.

Born in the Canary Islands of American parents, he has spent most of his life in Spain, and even now has dual nationality. He does not really care what he is called — he was christened Peter — but has decided that he would rather be a Spaniard and has taken steps to become one. Once he has signed on the dotted line, he will be Pedro — and that's official.

Cañizares, meanwhile, looked to be heading for a healthy lead when he reached the 12th tee at nine under par. He then had a horrific three-hole spell in which he dropped four shots, and only redeemed himself with birdies on the 15th and 16th. One way and another, it was quite a day for the 1½ Spaniards who find themselves at the top of the leader board this morning.

SCORES

LEADING SECOND ROUND SCORES: (GB and Ireland unless stated): 137: R Alvarez (Arg) 72, 65; J M Cañizares (Sp) 67, 70. 138: J Quiros (Sp) 70, 68; D Borrego (Sp) 68, 70. 139: W Riley (Aus) 68, 71; J Metcalfe 71, 68. 140: P Linhart (Sp) 76, 64; T Gogele (Ger) 71, 69; D Curry 72, 68; P Curry 69, 71; D Ray 70, 70; H-P Thul (Ger) 70, 70; M Piñero (Sp) 71, 69; A Murray 73, 67; B Barnes 73, 67. 141: M Besanceney (Fr) 70, 71; J Rivero (Sp) 73, 68; J Sewell 74, 67; D Smyth 70, 71. 142: J Davis (Sp) 74, 68; R Claydon 71, 71; J M Carriles (Sp) 71, 71; R Mann 67, 75; D J Russell 72, 70; J M Olazábal (Sp) 73, 69

Cumbrian challenge gaining strength



Walsh is intent on removing barriers to progress

Christopher Irvine on attempts by outposts of Rugby League to hold on to promising players

A slog up the M6 and a trek across to the coast of west Cumbria will be required to take Bradford Northern and St Helens to the end of their rugby league journeys tomorrow.

Bradford are at Workington Town and St Helens ten miles down the road at Whitehaven in the fifth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. This is north-west frontier territory, a far cry from the sport's Lancashire/Yorkshire heartland, where the elite go at Cup time to have nerves rattled and egos bruised.

"The trip is an awkward one," Kurt Sorensen, Whitehaven's confident player-coach, said yesterday. "We nearly pipped Wigan in the Regal Trophy a few weeks ago, because they were only interested in turning the bus straight back round."

Workington, the second division leaders, have gone three months without being beaten, so next season should see the leading teams beating a path to Derwent Park after the club's ten-year absence from the top flight.

For nearly half a century, Whitehaven have lived in the shadow of their neighbours but here, too, there are signs of re-emergence.

Both clubs, along with Barrow and Carlisle, have long suffered from the migration of good players south and east. Amateur sides such as Millom, Egremont, Askam, and Hensingham along the Cumbrian coast produce talented players in abundance, only to have them whisked away.

Workington and Whitehaven have realised that success will only be sustainable by retaining the services of those bred locally, and are using outside influences to help them achieve this aim.

Peter Walsh is an Australian coach linked with the sort of progressive thinking that brought Workington to a peak of achievement in the 1950s, when the legendary Welshman, Gus Risman, successfully mixed Cumbrian and international talents.

Phil McKenzie, an Australian, formerly at Widnes, and Des Drummond, the one-time Great Britain winger, are helping Walsh along that same path today.

Walsh has transformed a side which was on its knees when he arrived in May of 1992. Stuart Cocker is the league's joint leading try-scorer this season, with 24, and at half back Wayne Kitchin and Dean Marwood, are gaining the attention of leading clubs, that Walsh hopes can now be resisted. "The area is crying out for a top side and the solution is on the doorstep," he said.

At Whitehaven, Sorensen, the former New Zealand international, agreed. "We've deliberately gone out and signed up the aspiring local kids. The perception, wrongly, is that the professional game in Cumbria is in the doldrums, so everyone must leave, but we're gradually turning the tide."

Having to cross swords with such an inspirational figure as Sorensen, a finalist with Widnes last year, is reason enough for St Helens to fear the long haul Sorensen makes three times a week from his Merseyside home, although if second is to upset first division opposition Doncaster appear to have the best chance at home to struggling Oldham.

In today's televised tie at Headingley, Leeds' season will stand or fall by the result against a Jonathan Davies-inspired Warrington, while home advantage is just about the only thing Hull have going for them tomorrow against the holders, Wigan.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

1.55 Devongale. 2.25 Eurotwist. 2.55 Hypnotist. 3.25 No More Trix. 3.55 My Adventure. 4.25 Seon. 4.55 Five To Seven.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

1.55 BROUGH NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,559: 3m 1f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 4-42 DEVONGALE 17 M H Easterby 8-11-10 .... R Garritty
2 F5/3- RAIN MAN 432 M Hammond 9-11-4 .... Mr C Bonner (7)
3 F15P CANTGETOUT 21 (D,S) C Pinney 8-11-3 .... Mr A Pickering
4 2346F DARK OAK 11 J Curtis 8-11-0 .... L O'Hara
5 P3/00 KATY KEYS 21 L Lloyd-James 10-10-10 .... J Corkell
6 UF-U MISTER CUMBERS 7 J Johnson 7-10-9 .... M Holloy (7)
7 4-00 JUST MOLLY 57 Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-10-0 .... L Wyer
8 5P-0 CASTLE CROSS 119 J Charlton 7-10-0 .... W McFarland

7-4 Devongale, 4-1 Dark Oak, 5-1 Mister Cumbers, 8-1 Cantgetout, 10-1 Rain Man, 16-1 Just Molly, 25-1 others.

2.25 ASKE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,343: 2m) (8)

1 /452 DUAL IMAGE 63 (D,BF,F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-11-10 .... G Tormey (7)
2 F265 RATIFY 15 (D,G) K Morgan 7-11-8 .... A S Smith
3 1-00 EUROTWIST 10 (CD,S) Mrs V Aconley 5-11-8 .... W McFarland
4 60-5 MASTER'S CROWN 12F (D,F,G,S) M Chapman 6-11-5 .... W Worthington
5 4114 HYDE'S HAPPY HOUR 42 (D,BF,G,S) N Tinkler 4-11-4 .... E Husband (5)
6 6543 PERSONAL HAZARD 18 (B,D,S) M H Easterby 5-11-3 .... L Wyer
7 P-05 WHAT IF 47 (D,F,G,S) O Brennan 10-11-0 .... M Brennan
8 6223 J P MORGAN 22 (V,D,G) M Naughton 6-11-0 .... R Garritty

3-1 Dual Image, 4-1 Hyde's Happy Hour, 5-1 Personal Hazard, 6-1 Ratify, 8-1 Master's Crown, 10-1 Eurotwist, 16-1 others.

2.55 BRIDGE SELLING HURDLE
(£1,953: 2m) (18)

1 3100 COOL DUDE 22 (CD,G,S) J Johnson 8-11-9 .... N Bentley (3)
2 /5103 GREENACRES LAD 21 (CD,S) J Eyre 11-11-9 .... A Mulholland
3 6030 HYPNOTIST 36 (CD,G,S) W Bentley 7-11-9 .... D Wilkinson
4 /PU1 RUN OF WELD 21 (CD,G) F Yardley 11-11-9 .... W McFarland
5 DEPUTY TIM 167F R Bastiman 11-11-3 .... H Bastiman (5)
6 -530 DRU RI'S BRU RI 11 (V,D,G) W Smith 8-11-3 .... S Taylor (7)
7 INNOCENT GEORGE 355F Miss L Siddall 5-11-3 .... R Garritty
8 3P-R IRISH DITTY 15 (CD,S) K Morgan 7-11-3 .... A S Smith
9 05-P MR WESTCLIFF 11 Denys Smith 6-11-3 .... L O'Hara
10 -F205 PINECONE PETER 19 (V,F,S) O Brennan 7-11-3 .... M Brennan
11 P-25 POINT TAKEN 21 K Morgan 7-11-3 .... A Large (7)
12 0/P-0 ROBINS SON 11 Mrs S Smith 7-11-3 .... Gary Lyons
13 20PF SOLO CORNET 21 (G,S) P Bradley 9-11-3 .... W Humphreys
14 P/P0- SOME DO NOT 394 (D,F,G) W Storey 10-11-3 .... A Carroll
15 PP-0 TIBER RUN 17 T Carr 9-11-3 .... M Clarke (7)
16 0/0 JANE'S AFFAIR 29 Mrs A Swinbank 6-10-12 .... S Lyons (5)
17 00 TODDEN 79 (B) J Hetters 4-10-7 .... L Wyer
18 6 UNNAB 9 Denys Smith 4-10-2 .... P Waggott (5)

9-2 Run Of Weld, 5-1 Pinecone Peter, 6-1 Cool Dude, 7-1 Irish Ditty, 10-1 Greenacres Lad, Hypnotist, 12-1 Point Taken, 14-1 Solo Cornet, 16-1 others.

3.25 CATTERICK GRAND NATIONAL TRIAL
(Handicap chase: £3,394: 3m 4f 110yd) (4)

1 F4-3 REGAL ESTATE 11 (G,S) P Beaumont 10-11-7 .... C Hawkins
2 3-1F NO MORE TRIX 14 (C,G,S) T Tate 8-11-7 .... R Garritty
3 P/241 THE MALTKILN 21 (V,C,F,G,S) M Hammond 11-10-10 .... L Wyer
4 5220 TRUELY ROYAL 21 (C,G) J Charlton 10-10-0 .... Mr D Parker (7)

11-8 No More Trix, 2-1 The Maltkiln, 7-2 Regal Estate, 6-1 Truely Royal

3.55 GLADIATOR NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,448: 2m 3f) (9)

1 3/221 ALI'S ALIBI 11 (S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-10 .... Mr M Buckley (5)
2 2660 KINDA GROOVY 11 (B) I Park 5-10-13 .... N Smith
3 1400 STRONG FLAME 29 (S) M Hammond 5-10-12 .... S Lyons (5)
4 01 MY ADVENTURE 17 (S) M H Easterby 4-10-11 .... L Wyer
5 6252 HIGH PENHOWE 22 Mrs V Aconley 6-10-8 .... W McFarland
6 00P5 BALLYROVERS 22 (B) M W Easterby 5-10-8 .... J Driscoll (7)
7 -630 PESSOA 7 Mrs S Smith 7-10-2 .... Gary Lyons
8 5/PP- KERRY TO CLARE 306 T Gibson 8-10-2 .... Mark Roberts (7)
9 63P- CARLA ADAMS 485 W Storey 8-10-0 .... A Carroll

5-4 Ali's Alibi, 5-1 My Adventure, 13-2 Strong Flame, 8-1 Kinda Groovy, Pessoa, 16-1 others.

4.25 EBF NOVICES CHASE
(£2,391: 2m) (6)

1 0131 SEON 11 (CD,F,G,S) W Bentley 8-12-0 .... L Wyer
2 2122 ISSYIN 7 (C,BF,S) M W Easterby 7-11-8 .... R Garritty
3 /PUSU CALDECOTT 2 Mrs S Smith 8-11-2 .... Gary Lyons
4 05-3 FAVOURED VICTOR 21 (G,S) K Morgan 7-11-2 .... A S Smith
5 0633 GYMCRAK STARDOM 43 (G,S) G Holmes 8-11-2 .... R Marley
6 4-00 KRISSOS 11 Denys Smith 7-11-2 .... P Waggott (5)

6-4 Issyin, 7-4 Seon, 5-2 Gymcrak Stardom, 25-1 others.

4.55 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HURDLE
(£1,923: 2m) (13)

1 F21 FIVE TO SEVEN 14 (D,S) C Thornton 5-11-7 .... D Wilkinson
2 3P-1 HILLTOWN 43 (CD,S) J Johnson 6-11-7 .... A S Smith
3 /421 IMPERIAL BID 54 (G) Denys Smith 6-11-7 .... P Waggott (5)
4 P0 CHENOATS 7 J Curtis 6-11-0 .... L O'Hara
5 05 FLOATING LINE 7 P Wigham 6-11-0 .... R Garritty
6 84 GOLDEN TORQUE 18 R Bastiman 7-11-0 .... H Bastiman (5)
7 0P- REVEL 287 T Gibson 6-11-0 .... Mark Roberts (7)
8 3-5 SUNKALA SHINE 36 Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-0 .... F Leahy (7)
9 POFP TOLLS CHOICE 11 M W Easterby 5-11-0 .... J Driscoll (7)
10 43-5 TUSKY 11 G Moore 6-11-0 .... N Bentley (3)
11 0 MERRYHILL MADAM 16 P Bradley 5-10-9 .... W Humphreys
12 SARTIGILA 22F M Hammond 5-10-9 .... S Lyons (5)
13 56-3 STOPROVERITATE 22F S Norton 5-10-9 .... L Wyer

5-4 Five To Seven, 4-1 Hilltown, 6-1 Sunkala Shine, 7-1 Imperial Bid, 10-1 Tusky, 12-1 Golden Torque, Stoproveritate, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Morgan, 5 winners from 19 runners, 26.3%; Mrs M Reveley, 23 from 92, 25.0%; N Tinkler, 11 from 44, 25.0%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 16 from 78, 20.5%; Mrs V Aconley, 6 from 33, 18.2%; O Brennan, 4 from 22, 18.2%.

JOCKEYS: Mr M Buckley, 4 winners from 9 rides, 44.4%; A S Smith, 4 from 15, 26.7%; M Brennan, 5 from 29, 17.2%; N Bentley, 4 from 32, 12.5%; R Garritty, 11 from 89, 12.4%; L Wyer, 11 from 95, 11.6%.

AYR

THUNDERER

2.20 Templerainey. 2.50 Vayrua. 3.20 Busman. 3.50 General Pershing. 4.20 Gallateen. 4.50 Russian Castle.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS

2.20 MARTNAHAM MAIDEN HURDLE
(£2,061: 2m) (18 runners)

1 4-4 ADDINGTON BOY 14 G Richards 6-11-6 .... N Doughty
2 00P DERWENT LAD 22 M Barnes 5-11-6 .... A Merrigan
3 0PP/ FINDOGLEN 891 D Alder 8-11-6 .... A Lamach (3)
4 /5-5 FLINTERS 85 G Richards 7-11-6 .... M Moloney
5 0- HANDSOME GENT 400 L Lungo 5-11-6 .... F Perratt (5)
6 FVP JINGLIN' GEORDIE 40 Mrs Alisa Russell 6-11-6 .... K Jones
7 5 KERNEL GRAIN 14 D Moffatt 5-11-6 .... D J Moffatt (3)
8 36-6 KNOW-NO-NO 78 M Hammond 5-11-6 .... D Bentley (3)
9 0-64 RALLEGIO 8 P Monteith 5-11-6 .... A Dobbin
10 F30 TALOS 11 W Bentley 6-11-6 .... R Hodge
11 133F TEMPLERAINEY 8 (D,G) Mrs S Bradburne 6-11-6 .... P Williams (5)
12 5-0 WANG HOW 108 C Thornton 6-11-6 .... A Thornton (3)
13 -303 SCRABBLE 17 Mrs S Smith 5-11-1 .... R Guest
14 4352 BEND SABLE 9 F Storey 4-10-10 .... B Storey
15 4P DAYADAN 72 B Ellison 4-10-10 .... T Reed
16 0 SEABURN 14 N Mason 4-10-10 .... J Supple (5)
17 TROY BOY 103F G Moore 4-10-10 .... J Callaghan
18 5 CROMARTY 14 J J O'Neill 4-10-5 .... A Roche (5)

4-1 Bend Sable, Scrabble, 6-1 Cromarty, Templerainey, 7-1 Talos, 8-1 Addington Boy, Rallegio, 10-1 Kernel Grain, 12-1 Dayadan, Handsome Gent, 14-1 others.

2.50 CARSPHAIRN HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,668: 2m 4f) (7)

1 3211 VAYRUA 11 (D,G,S) J Hellens 9-11-10 .... A Lamach (3)
2 63P4 BAD TRADE 17 (CD,B,S) D Alder 12-11-8 .... R Guest
3 F352 CENTENARY STAR 15 (C,D,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-7 .... B Storey
4 5232 DEEP DECISION 23 (D,G) P Cheesbrough 8-11-6 .... K Johnson
5 5-22 RIVER PEARL 7 (C,D,BF,G,S) L Lungo 9-11-2 .... T Reed
6 533T FUNNY OLD GAME 23 (CD,S) D McCune 7-10-12 .... A Thornton (3)
7 -443 KAMART 22 (F) M Barnes 6-10-4 .... A Dobbin

5-2 Vayrua, 7-2 Centenary Star, 4-1 Deep Decision, 5-1 Funny Old Game, 8-1 River Pearl, 14-1 Bad Trade, Kamart.

3.20 FISHERTON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,580: 2m 4f) (12)

1 -334 PREOBLAKENSKY 11 (V,C,D,BF,G,S) G Richards 7-12-7 .... B Harding (7)
2 2-20 VALIANT DASH 14 (D,F,G,S) J Goldie 8-11-10 .... F Perratt (5)
3 26-6 ALL GREEK TO ME 22 (G) J Parkes 6-11-10 .... S Mason (5)
4 0P-P KAMBALDA RAMBLER 44 (C,D,S) C Parker 10-10-9 .... B Storey
5 3564 FLING IN SPRING 29 Mrs S Bradburne 8-10-2 .... P Williams (5)
6 0621 BUSMAN 8 (D,S) J O'Shea 5-10-1 .... R Guest
7 0548 GOLDEN REVERIE 23 (CD,G) B Mactaggart 6-10-0 .... A Merrigan
8 05-0 WINSOME GRAIN 14 Miss L Perratt 5-10-0 .... A Thornton (3)
9 0045 BOLD MOOD 17 J Birkett 5-10-0 .... E McKinley
10 P-61 VERY EVIDENT 11 (S) G Moore 5-10-0 .... J Callaghan
11 P35P HUNTING COUNTRY 17 (G) J J O'Neill 10-10-0 .... A Roche (5)
12 0064 HOTDIGGITY 17 P Monteith 6-10-0 .... A Dobbin

5-2 Busman, 3-1 Golden Reverie, 7-2 Very Evident, 4-1 Preoblakensky, 8-1 All Greek To Me, 10-1 Fling In Spring, 12-1 Bold Mood, Valiant Dash, 16-1 others.

3.50 MELLERAYS BELLE CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£3,404: 3m 1f) (6)

1 4614 GENERAL PERSHING 14 (CD,F,G,S) G Richards 8-12-0 .... N Doughty
2 F21- HE WHO DARES WINS 485 (D,F,G) P Cheesbrough 11-10-2 .... K Johnson
3 1U11 KILLULA CHIEF 14 (CD,F,G,S) J O'Shea 7-10-0 .... R Guest
4 4P6U CAROUSEL CALYPSO 23 (D,G,S) M Hammond 8-10-0 .... D Bentley (3)
5 432F FORTH AND TAY 8 (G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 12-10-0 .... P Williams (5)
6 V306 DEEP HAVEN 8 Mrs A Russell 9-10-0 .... K Jones

5-4 General Pershing, 5-2 Killula Chief, 4-1 He Who Dares Wins, 14-1 Carousel Calypso, Forth And Tay, 66-1 Deep Haven.

4.20 CARWINSHOCH NOVICES CHASE
(£2,840: 2m 4f) (5)

1 1314 SHEILAS HILLCREST 14 (D,S) N Mason 8-12-0 .... J Supple (5)
2 -306 CAITHNESS PRINCE 23 (G) C Parker 8-11-2 .... B Storey
3 31-2 GALLATEEN 40 (CD,F,G,S) G Richards 6-11-2 .... N Doughty
4 00F5 PIT PONY 14 (C,G,S) D Robertson 10-11-2 .... R Hodge
5 5063 JUPITER MOON 11 (G) Mrs A Swinbank 5-10-7 .... R Guest

1-3 Gallateen, 6-1 Jupiter Moon, 12-1 Caithness Prince, Sheilas Hillcrest, 20-1 Pit Pony.

4.50 MARCHBURN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,243: 2m 6f) (8)

1 1540 BELLS HILL LAD 14 (D,S) J Barclay 7-11-10 .... A Dobbin
2 3035 THE WHIRLIE WEEVIL 14 G Richards 6-11-6 .... N Doughty
3 2023 BASILICUS 35 Mrs S Smith 5-11-5 .... R Guest
4 -052 RUSSIAN CASTLE 14 J Wade 5-11-3 .... K Jones
5 430P CLASSIC MINSTREL 23 (G) Mrs S Bradburne 10-11-2 .... P Williams (5)
6 2-P6 CARSON CITY 14 Mrs M Reveley 7-11-0 .... R Hodge
7 8554 SCARF 18 (B,BF) J J O'Neill 6-11-0 .... A Roche (5)
8 0434 STRATHBOGIE MIST 7 J Parkes 6-10-0 .... D J Moffatt (3)

3-1 Russian Castle, Scarf, 4-1 Basilicus, 5-1 Carson City, 8-1 Bells Hill Lad, Strathbogie Mist, The Whirlie Weevil, 12-1 Classic Minstrel

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Thornton, 6 winners from 15 runners, 40.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 30 from 86, 34.9%; N Mason, 3 from 9, 33.3%; G Richards, 53 from 246, 21.5%; M Barnes, 3 from 17, 17.6%; G Moore, 16 from 94, 17.0%.

JOCKEYS: N Doughty, 35 winners from 130 rides, 26.9%; J Supple, 3 from 13, 23.1%; A Dobbin, 10 from 53, 18.9%; F Perratt, 4 from 32, 12.5%; B Storey, 18 from 163, 11.0% (Only qualifiers)

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.05 Harlequin Walk. 2.35 My Harvinski. 3.05 Sarum. 3.35 Letsbehonestaboutit. 4.05 Success Story. 4.35 Thorny Bishop.

GOING: STANDARD — SIS

DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW TO MIDDLE NUMBERS BEST

2.05 VIVIENNE BYRNE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,355: 1m 2f) (5 runners)

1 5 PLINTH 35 N Graham 9-0 .... J Weaver 1
2 0-02 SIR DANNY 22 N Graham 9-0 .... J Williams 2
3 0- FLORA BELLE 131 Lord Huntingdon 8-9 .... D Harrison 3
4 0-62 HARLEQUIN WALK 11 G Eden 8-9 .... L Dettori 5
5 00-2 ROCKSTINE 25 (V) P Mitchell 8-9 .... J Quinn 4

7-4 Sir Danny, 3-1 Flora Belle, 4-1 Harlequin Walk, 5-1 Plinth, Rockstine.

2.35 I LOVE JEANETTE SELLING HANDICAP
(£2,553: 1m 5f) (15)

1 2120 KENYATTA 21 (CD,G) A Moore 5-10-0 .... L Dettori 5
2 -005 APPLIANCEOFSCIENCE 22 (G) K Wingrove 7-9-13 .... D Holland 3
3 00-0 MY HARVINSKI 7 (B) P Hedger 4-9-10 .... Stephen Davies (3) 8
4 3-33 BETTY KENWOOD 32 K Wingrove 4-9-10 .... P McCabe (5) 10
5 0-46 LYPH 7 (CD,G) P Hedger 6-9-4 .... S Dawson 1
6 05-0 FRIENDLY SMILE 32 G Eden 4-9-2 .... J Williams 4
7 00-6 CHARIOTEER 15 P Hazlam 5-9-1 .... J Quinn 14
8 5-66 MR JAZZ DANCER 22 D Wintle 4-9-0 .... N Adams 7
9 0/00- KILLSHANDRA 10J (B) Mrs B Waring 5-8-10 .... G Bardwell 11
10 05-0 TOP GUNNER 7 (V) J Long 4-8-9 .... Paul Eddery 9
11 6068 MELISIO 14 C Wildman 4-8-6 .... C Rutter 12
12 6-60 GREY WATCH 28 P Howling 4-8-6 .... T Williams 6
13 0/66- SPANISH WHISPER 11J (F) J Bostock 7-8-2 .... T Sprake 2
14 -050 SHARE A MOMENT 15J R Hollinshead 4-7-13 .... A Garth (5) 13
15 3/0-0 WHITEHOUSE GEM 35 R Peacock 11-7-12 .... D Wright (5) 15

2-1 Kenyatta, 5-1 Betty Kenwood, 6-1 Friendly Smile, My Harvinski, Spanish Whisper, 10-1 Applianceofscience, Mr Jazz Dancer, Share A Moment, 12-1 others.

3.05 JACK & JILL COLE HANDICAP
(£3,377: 1m) (9)

1 01-1 DUNE RIVER 21 (CD,F,G) D Loder 5-10-0 .... L Dettori 1
2 2-23 INVOCATION 18 (C,G) A Moore 7-9-12 .... N Adams 6
3 /83-5 NASHAAT 35 (F) N Walter 6-9-7 .... S Dawson 5
4 005- MULLITOVER 99 (S) M Heaton-Ellis 4-9-6 .... Stephen Davies (3) 8
5 000- PIQUANT 133 (D,F,G,S) Lord Huntingdon 7-9-5 .... D Harrison 4
6 F-35 DAM CERTAIN 8 (C,D,F,G) R Ingram 5-8-5 .... Dale Gibson 9
7 -142 IKHTIRAA 7 (CD,G,S) P Mitchell 4-8-3 .... G Bardwell 7
8 -103 SARUM 7 (CD,F,G) C Wildman 6-8-3 .... C Rutter 3
9 541- PATONG BEACH 10J (F) M Muggeridge 4-8-1 .... T Williams 2

3-1 Dune River, 5-1 Invocation, Piquant, 7-1 Sarum, 8-1 Ikhtiraa, Nashaat, 10-1 Dam Certain, Patong Beach, 12-1 Mullitover

3.35 ANNEMARIE CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,781: 7f) (12)

1 04/2 PYTCHLEY NIGHT 15 (CD,F,G) D Morris 7-9-2 .... Stephen Davies (3) 5
2 62-0 PAIR OF JACKS 2J (G) W Muir 4-9-0 .... Antoinette Armes (7) 8
3 24-5 ZEBOIM 14 (B,C,F,G) W Muir 8-9-0 .... Kim McDonnell 8
4 6404 LETSBEONESTABOUTIT 11 (B,CD,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 8-8-12 .... L Dettori 1
5 4-330 LUCKNAM STYLE 32 (D,F) Mrs B Waring 6-8-12 .... G Bardwell 4
6 200- SILKY SIREN 115 (D,F,G) B Meehan 5-8-11 .... S Whitworth 6
7 0116 RESPECTABLE JONES 4 (CD,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 8-8-10 .... Paul Eddery 12
8 02-6 CONISTON LAKE 21 (D,F) G Moore 5-8-8 .... A Morris 10
9 2100- FARM STREET 322 (D,G,S) C Broad 7-8-6 .... B Russell (5) 7
10 3-06 CHRISTOPH'S GIRL 11 (D,F,G) Allan Smith (Bel) 5-8-5 3
11 0-03 TURTLE BEACH 15 (D,G) C C Elsey 5-8-4 .... J Quinn 11
12 000- TASSAGH BRIDGE 109 J Payne 4-8-3 .... A Mackay 2

3-1 Pytchley Night, 7-2 Respectable Jones, 5-1 Silky Siren, 6-1 Zeboim, 10-1 Coniston Lake, 12-1 Farm Street, Pair Of Jacks, 14-1 Turtle Beach, 16-1 Letsbeonestabouth, Lucknam Style, 20-1 others

4.05 PAULINE 40th & IAN STEWART 50th HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,847: 1m 2f) (5)

1 5-15 KOMPLICITY 11 (CD,G) Bob Jones 9-7 .... M Wigham 5
2 45-1 SUCCESS STORY 35 (CD,G) Lord Huntingdon 9-5 .... L Dettori 4
3 655- CADENABBIA 58 C C Elsey 9-4 .... J Williams 2
4 0-44 DONT CON TH'BOOKIE 21 (E) W Musson 8-4 .... J Quinn 3
5 0-55 MISS KATIE LOUISE 18 J Spearing 7-10 .... G Bardwell 1

11-8 Success Story, 100-30 Cadenabbia, 4-1 Komplicity, 6-1 Dont Con Th'bookie, 7-1 Miss Katie Louise.

4.35 DEMPSTER'S DIARY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,769: 7f) (4)

1 2211 THORNY BISHOP 4 (C,G) J Bridger 8-10 (6ex) .... T Williams 3
2 -113 ROCKETEER 26 (B,BF,C,G) W Muir 9-7 .... Kim McDonnell 1
3 2234 MONSIEUR PETONG 7 (BF) M Channon 9-0 .... R Painter (7) 4
4 2-53 NAPOLEON STAR 28 (BF) M Saunders 8-5 .... J Williams 2

6-4 Thorny Bishop, 7-4 Rocketeer, 4-1 Napoleon Star, 5-1 Monsieur Petong

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Walker, 3 winners from 5 runners, 60.0%; D Loder, 4 from 14, 28.6%; Bob Jones, 5 from 19, 26.3%; R Hollinshead, 16 from 64, 25.0%; Lord Huntingdon, 20 from 88, 22.7%; N Graham, 5 from 28, 17.9%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 36 from 103, 35.0%; Emma O'Gorman, 36 from 160, 22.5%; J Weaver, 10 from 51, Stephen Davies, 9 from 58, 15.5%; J Williams, 51 from 368, 13.9%; P McCabe, 6 from 44, 13.6%.

☐ Harcros, the timber and builders' supplier, yesterday confirmed its continued sponsorship of a Flat stayers' championship series of 15 qualifiers, culminating in a final at the Doncaster St Leger meeting in September.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 2.35 Top Gunner, Killshandra.

McCarthy set for profitable trip

Point-to-point by Brian Beel

TIM McCarthy, whose horsebox broke down on the way to the Thurlow point-to-point last Saturday, will have a shorter journey and, hopefully, a more profitable day when the season opens in the South East at Charing today.

Strong Gold, his Cottenham winner, was aboard on the aborted trip but will be back in action in the open, where it will take a good opponent to beat him.

This is the third race on the card and by then McCarthy should have been in the winner's enclosure at least once before. His ride in the restricted is on his recent Tweseldown winner, Green Thorburn who, with the advantage of that outing, will strip fitter than most. The club race, which follows, could see his other Tweseldown winner, Roussillon To Be, having a sterner test than he did that day if Magical Morris is in opposition.

At the same meeting, Paul Hacking had looked to be coming to win the open race but blundered the last fence and could finish only fourth but just four lengths behind the winner, Fedneyhill.

Huge entries have caused several cards to be extended. The maiden at the **Vale of Clettwr** has already been split four ways and, with over 40 in each restricted, there is every likelihood these will also be divided.

Maidens are in shorter supply at the **South Dorset** with only 22 entered at Milborne St Andrew. The meeting, however, starts with three restricted races, the first of which could see the Badbury Rings maiden winner, Cool Dawn, taking on Philip Scouller's Periphemos.

Simon Sporborg, who had a disappointing ride on Over The Edge at Wincanton on Thursday, will be on Mister Main Man in the **Waveney** confined, hoping to extend his winning sequence this season to four. Fort Hall will be looking for his thirtieth success in the ladies, where Richard Hunt is a danger.

The return of Nigel Tutty's mount Duright, will be welcomed by racegoers in Yorkshire where she returns to contest the **Badsworth** open. She had a fine season in 1991, culminating in winning the Heart Of All England. The following year she cantered up when winning at Witton Castle but injured a leg and has not raced since.

The **Wheatland Hunt** has had to abandon its fixture at the second attempt, while the **South Midlands Area Hunt Club** at Heythrop was postponed until next Saturday.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Badsworth, Wetherby, inside NH course (first race 12.00): East Cornwall, Great Trethew 3m SE of Liskeard (12.00), Haydon, Corbridge 2m N of town (12.30), South Dorset, Milborne St Andrew 8m NE of Dorchester (12.00). South East Hunts Club, Charing, 6m NE of Ashford (12.30). Vale of Clettwr, Erw Lon, 10m N of Carmarthen (12.00), Waveney Harriers, Higham, 7m NE of Colchester (12.00)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Newbury

Going: heavy

2.00 (2m 1f ch) 1, CABOCHON (J Frost, 1-5 fav), 2, Black Church (R Dunwoody, 8-1), 3, Groomsman (W Humphreys, 11-1). 3 ran. NR: Current Express. 1l, dist. R Frost at Buckfastleigh. Tote: £1.20. DF: £1.60. CSF: £1.76.

2.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, MYSILV (A Maguire, 1-7 fav), 2, Burnt Imp (J Callaghan, 8-1), 3, Grand Applause (D Gallagher, 12-1). 3 ran. NR: Pridwell. 7l, dist. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote: £1.10. DF: £1.30. CSF: £1.68.

3.00 (2m 1f ch) 1, DIS TRAIN (J Osborne, 5-1), 2, Mr Felix (A Maguire, 9-2), 3, Alan Ball (M A Fitzgerald, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 8-13 fav Rodeo Star (4th). 4 ran. NR: Northern Jinks. 5l, 4l, 6l. S Sherwood at East Ilsley. Tote: £4.00. DF: £7.80. CSF: £21.28.

3.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, DUNCAN (Mr B Pollock, 7-2), 2, Minstrel Man (Mr T McCarthy, 5-1), 3, Royal Pavilion (Mr C Gordon, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 5-6 fav Wild Illusion (f), 7 Bee Garden (r), 50 Sonnendew (4th). 6 ran. 25l, 1½l, dist. Miss C Saunders at Northampton. Tote: £4.20; £1.90, £1.90. DF: £13.50. CSF: £19.70.

4.00 (2m 5f hdle) 1, MANEREE (R Campbell, 2-1 fav), 2, Myhamet (A Maguire, 100-30); 3, Robingo (D Gallagher, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Kaytak (5th), 4 Zamirah (4th). 5 ran. 2l, 1½l, ½l, 25l. N Callaghan at Newmarket. Tote: £3.30; £2.00, £1.50. DF: £5.10. CSF: £8.45.

4.30 (2m 5f hdle) 1, FRIENDLY FELLOW (P Holley, 8-1), 2, Greenhil Tare Away (M Hourigan, 50-1); 3, Welsh Lustre (A Maguire, 13-8). ALSO RAN: 11-8 fav Winnowing (f), 5 Hold Your Ranks (4th), 14 Phil's Dream (6th), 50 Ballymgyr (5th), Professor Longhair (pu). 8 ran. NR: Golden Spinner, Prince Of Prey, The Brud. 3½l, 7l, 30l, 25l, 2½l. D Elsworth at Whitcombe. Tote: £10.40; £1.30, £5.30, £1.30. DF: £219.90. Trio: £181.20. CSF: £191.96.

Jackpot: £1,102.20.

Placepot: £74.10.

3.45 (2m hdle) 1, DARING PAST (P Niven, 5-1), 2, Call My Guest (M Dwyer, 9-2), 3, Star Rage (J Driscoll, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Blue Grotto, 4 Diwali Dancer (f), 10 Fret (5th), 16 Civil Law (6th), 20 Mamara Reef, Primo Figlio (4th), 25 Bering Island, Vagly Sunthyme, 33 Golden Savannah, 50 Premier Star, Zaaheyah, 66 Friendly Knight, 100 Lingcool. 16 ran. NR: Atherton Green. 10l, 3l, 4l, 1½l, 6l. M Hammond at Middleham. Tote: £6.40; £3.00, £2.50, £6.70. DF: £18.60. Trio: £55.70. CSF: £28.59.

4.15 (3m 3f ch) 1, EQUINOCTIAL (K Jones, 6-1), 2, Hagar (B Storey, 16-1), 3, Highlandman (A Dobbin, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 13-8 fav Keep Bidding (4th), 5 Grazember (6th), 8 Macconachie, 9 Emerald Gem (5th), 10 Ebro. 8 ran. 3½l, 8l, 5l, 1½l, 3l. N Miller at Ferryhill. Tote: £14.00; £1.60, £2.90, £2.50. DF: £55.90. CSF: £79.93.

4.45 (2m 3f hdle) 1, ONLY A ROSE (D Wilkinson, 7-1), 2, Wake Up (G Bradley, 5-1), 3, Gymcrak Sovereign (R Marley, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 15-8 fav Shahgram (5th), 6 Richardson, 8 The Green Fool (4th), 10 Marsh's Law, 12 Reve De Valse, 20 Curtain Factory, Stags Fell, 25 Candid Lad (6th). 11 ran. Nk, 2½l, hd, 3l, 12l. C Thornton at Middleham. Tote: £11.20; £2.60, £2.50, £3.20. DF: £20.90. Trio: £130.80. CSF: £42.69. Tricast: £301.94.

Placepot: £501.30.

Catterick Bridge

Going: good to soft

2.15 (3m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, PORTONIA (P Niven, 12-1), 2, Coqui Lane (B Storey, 3-1); 3, Farmer's Cross (Mrs A Farrell, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 10-11 fav Savoy (pu), 6 Sparrow Hall (6th), 14 Bishops Castle, 16 Tiderunner (pu), 33 Kilmintoyle (4th), 100 Pollitts Pride (f), Royal Surprise (5th), Sophini (pu). 11 ran. 3½l, 10l, 5l, 12l, 10l. Mrs M Reveley at Saltburn. Tote: £8.40; £2.70, £1.10, £13.50. DF: £19.20. CSF: £46.37.

2.45 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, CHOCTAW (C Hawkins, 100-30), 2, Heavenly Citizen (R Garritty, 5-2 fav), 3, Tim Soldier (D Murphy, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 5 Grey Minstrel (5th), 11-2 Choice Challange (4th), 8 Whinwood (pu). 6 ran. 3l, 7l, 10l, 8l. P Beaumont at Brandsby. Tote: £2.70; £1.70, £1.50. DF: £4.90. CSF: £11.49.

3.15 (2m ch) 1, MILITARY HONOUR (Mr S Swiers, 3-1), 2, Kind'a Smart (A S Smith, 7-2), 3, Treasidder (R Garritty, 9-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 100-30 Temble Gel (5th), 9 Vutrory's Clown (4th), 50 Ballybell (6th). 6 ran. 8l, 5l, 10l, 1½l, 7l. J Swiers at Helperby. Tote: £3.50; £2.20, £1.80. DF: £7.10. CSF: £12.96.

Southwell

Going: standard

2.20 (1m) 1, Mystic Eagle (L Dettori, 10-11 fav), 2, Sestriere (12-1), 3, Lady Highfield (9-2). 8 ran. NR: Dance Steppe, Rock To Sleep, Sir Danny. 6l, ½l. J Gosden. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £2.90, £1.10. DF: £10.80. CSF: £13.30.

2.50 (6f) 1, Dauntless Fort (J Quinn, 10-1), 2, Nordico Princess (12-1), 3, Dance Of The Swans (13-8 fav). 7 ran. 3l, 1l. B Murray. Tote: £12.00; £3.30, £3.10. DF: £165.60. CSF: £96.41.

3.20 (6f) 1, Milos (D Holland, 5-4 fav), 2, Lady Silk (7-2), 3, Three Of Hearts (11-2). 4 ran. 4l, 2l. T Naughton. Tote: £1.60. DF: £3.90. CSF: £5.45.

3.50 (7f) 1, Old Comrades (D Harrison, 12-1), 2, Themaam (7-4 fav), 3, Maid Welcome (16-1). 15 ran. NR: Shotley Again. Hd, 3l. T Barron. Tote: £19.60; £3.90, £1.40, £9.90. DF: £34.00. Trio: £92.00. CSF: £37.38. Tricast: £357.99.

4.20 (1m 4f) 1, Top Shiel (D Holland, 3-1 jt-fav), 2, Marathia (8-1); 3, Pacific Power (3-1 jt-fav), Lady Contess 3-1 jt-fav. 11 ran. 3l, 3½l. K Burke. Tote: £3.50; £2.90, £1.50, £2.40. DF: £22.50. CSF: £28.02.

4.50 (2m) 1, Hasta La Vista (L Dettori, 13-8 fav), 2, Moonshine Dancer (8-1); 3, Well And Truly (8-1). 11 ran. ½l, 4l. M W Easterby. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £2.50, £2.50. DF: £15.20. Trio: £14.60. CSF: £16.32. Tricast: £65.18.

Placepot: £2,267.60.

☐ The meeting at Bangor was abandoned — waterlogging.

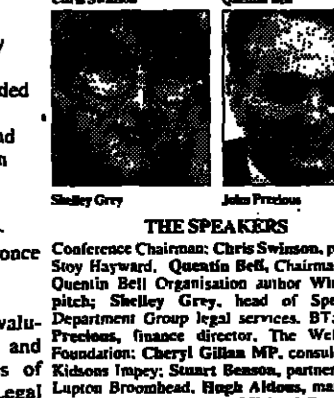
☐ There will be an inspection at Plumpton at 9.30am tomorrow to determine prospects for Monday's meeting.

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THE TIMES

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Saturday portrait: Tonya Harding, by Ben Macintyre

Rough-edged skater desperate to fulfil the American dream

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN



A Rottweiler in the sport of pure-bred poodles, Tonya Harding upset the genteel balance of figure-skating long before Nancy Kerrigan, her chief rival and *alter ego*, was clubbed on the knee last month: long before four men, including her former husband, were arrested and charged with the crime, and long before Harding herself was accused of having a central role in the attack and her place in the Winter Olympics was thrown into jeopardy.

Imagine the antithesis of the accepted image of women's figure-skating, with its flounces and glitter, its forced smiles and elegant, fantasy-driven *élan*, and you have Tonya Harding: a cigarette-smoking, pool-playing, pick-up-driving tough with scarlet finger nails and ambition that glints like a freshly-honed skate blade. Sugar and spice and all things nice, that's what women skaters are traditionally made of. But not this one.

The bizarre, often farcical tale of Tonya Harding and Skategate has held the United States enthralled for more than a month, and two starkly different endings are now in prospect. In the first version, the poor girl from a broken home who made it to the top of her sport is exonerated, she triumphs at Lillehammer in the competition which begins on February 23 and returns to America bearing a gold medal.

The other finale is bleaker: Harding is kicked off the Olympic team, charged with conspiracy to nobble her opponent and goes down in history as the Ice Witch. To ensure a happy ending, Kerrigan skates away with the medal but Harding models for *Penthouse* (negotiations are reportedly under way already) and both retire wealthy.

On Tuesday the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) is due to hold a meeting in Lillehammer to decide whether *Harding violated Olympic ethics* and should be removed from the team. Last Thursday, Harding, who has not been charged in connection with the assault, instructed her lawyers to file suit against the committee seeking a permanent order to prevent the officials interfering with her Olympic bid and demanding at least $25 million in damages.

The chain of events which has left Harding suing and Kerrigan vying for a place as America's most adored athlete — and every Hollywood agent reaching for a cheque book — began on January 6 when a man emerged from the crowd watching Kerrigan train for the national championships in Detroit and struck the Boston skater on the leg, with what police later identified as a retractable aluminium baton.

Although her injury was not severe, Kerrigan was unable to compete in the championships, which Harding won easily, along with a passport to the Olympics.

> 'Where traditional women skaters were elegant sylphs, she was chunky, tireless, supremely daring'

When Kerrigan was also awarded an Olympic team place, Harding's reaction was characteristically blunt and undiplomatic: "I'm going to whip her butt," she said.

After police arrested Harding's bodyguard, a lumbering Walter Mitty figure named Shawn Eckardt, along with two other men, alleged to be the hit man and the getaway driver, what had appeared to be an attack by a deranged sports fan took on yet more sinister overtones. When Harding's former husband, Jeff Gillooly, was also arrested, even the skater's stepfather began to suggest she was "guilty as hell".

When Gillooly struck a plea bargain with prosecutors in return *for testifying against his former* wife, this self-proclaimed tough cookie, 5ft 1in of searing competitiveness, held a press conference, at which, close to tears, she again denied any prior knowledge of a plot but castigated herself for failing to tell police what she learnt afterwards. She pleaded for her chance to compete in Norway. "You may never be able to forgive me," she said, adding: "This is my last chance."

Her early life is a story of deprivation, lovelessness and grit that could (and almost certainly will) end up as a country-and-western ballad. Her much-married mother, La Vona, walked out when Harding was 15, having sewed her skating outfits and worked night shifts as a waitress to make the extra cash to pay for her daughter's training.

But she also reportedly beat her with a hairbrush when she failed to perform to standard. Later Harding paid her way by collecting empty bottles from roadsides and recycling them for a nickel apiece.

Not surprisingly, she grew up hungry for wealth, bitter and tough as nails. Her father Al (big, kindly, and often unemployed) taught her to shoot at the age of five and how to strip down the engine of a pick-up truck. Then, when Tonya was 16, Big Al also headed off, to Boise, Idaho.

So from an unhappy, fraught childhood, she moved on to an unhappy, fraught marriage to Gillooly, whom she met when she was 15 and he was 18. Harding twice obtained restraining orders during their tempestuous three-year marriage, claiming Gillooly had abused her. She even moved out, saying she feared for her life after he bought a shotgun. But she always went back.

Despite her sad and troubled childhood, she became a superlative skater. Years of chopping logs under the guidance of Big Al gave her an upper-body strength that enabled her to perform athletic feats more feminine skaters could never attempt. In 1991, she became the first woman to achieve the notoriously difficult triple axel *spin in competition.*

Where traditional women skaters were elegant sylphs, Harding was chunky, tireless and supremely daring; where they wore expressions of photogenic sweetness, Harding's eyes could have opened a clam, so grim and determined did she seem. Where her rivals simpered and primped, she preferred confrontation.

Once she threatened a motorist with a baseball bat after a traffic *dispute. She smoked, despite her* asthma, and then denied it. Fellow competitors found her intimidating and anti-social. But cookies, no matter how tough, are brittle objects and there is a psychological frailty behind Harding's swagger that is almost endearing. Her bluster and crude remarks are attempts to be amusing; her antics in front of the press (filming them filming her, throwing footballs) are only too clearly efforts to gain *affection by one who has had little.*

She has been demonised by the American press, but at the humble mall rink where she trains in Oregon, thousands assemble daily to cheer her on and her fan club has doubled its membership in the last two weeks. Her supporters do not care much whether she is guilty or innocent, for she has become to some a symbol of blue collar grit — the Roseanne Arnold of the rink. The faithful carry *defiant banners that read:* "Tonya We Love You — Deal With It, America".

And America may have to do just that. Harding's career has been the hardscrabble ascent of a series of apparently insurmountable obstacles. And she may overcome the latest of them. She may even win the gold medal in Norway. That would force America to deal with a concept rare in any sport but unique in the *breathless, illusory world of* women's figure-skating: an Olympic champion who is something less than a flawless heroine, one who might figure in a criminal prosecution.

Bells continue to sound optimistic notes in manner of true Olympians



David Miller *in Lillehammer*

meets two brothers defying the odds to battle away for Britain

NEITHER of the Bell brothers, Martin and Graham, is going to win tomorrow's blue riband opening event of the Winter Olympic Games, the men's downhill. Baron Pierre de Coubertin would be proud of the pair of them, however. They are there just for the thrill of being involved.

No doubt one of the ritzy boys from Austria or Switzerland, who have been twisting down a mountain since they could first walk, or maybe an Italian, German or Frenchman such as Piccard, runner-up in 1992, will become the new champion. The Bells, probably no more than two or three seconds astern and hoping to be at least in the top 30, at best in single figures, are competing for simple honour.

"It's still fun, pushing out of the gate, even in the bad years," Graham says. And there have been a few of those. Avid sportsmen on the one hand, ski junkies on the other, hooked on adrenalin and the confrontation with fear. In yesterday's second practice run, Graham compressed a knee *in the final dip before the* finish. A hospital check revealed no damage, and he hopes to be training normally again today.

Now 29 and 28 respectively, Martin and Graham have been, unacclaimed, a triumph for perseverence over adversity: living hand to mouth, scraping together just enough sponsorship to meet their £8,000-a-year basic expenses for summer training in Chile and staying on the winter circuit.

Alongside the million-dollar support programmes of the Alpine nations and the Americans and Canadians — never mind the six-figure incomes of the top competitors — the Bells are sporting paupers. Yet you will usually find them smiling as though without a care.

Martin achieved a remarkable eighth place — remarkable for a non-Alpine resident — at Calgary in 1988, unfortunately overshadowed at the time by absurd attention granted to a ski-jump duffer. Graham, with a recent exhilarating twelfth place on the notorious Hahnenkamm at Kitzbühel, hopes to emulate his brother tomorrow.

It would be the ultimate fulfilment of his promise as a teenager. He was regarded as potentially one of the world's best until he suffered a severe knee injury in 1986. After a slow repair, he overtook his brother two years later. Martin crashing in the course of the winter of 1988-89.

"No other developed country is as far behind the times [in winter sports]. is as unprofessional in its approach as we are," Graham says without particular rancour. "The top Austrians and Swiss are probably earning £500,000 a year. Maybe less than Tomba, perhaps, but we don't mind that because they earn it. It's when we look at our level, at the Germans, Americans and Canadians, who have everything paid by the national ski federation, and the Italians who are paid as policemen or customs officials or whatever and never do a day's work, that's a bit frustrating. They have a shock when they discover how we have to operate, what it costs us personally."

Yet, Graham adds philosophically, there are advantages in being in the British team. Such as? "Well, it's easy to stay on the team, you're not being pressed for your place by a stream of youngsters." What else? "Well, I suppose that's about it, really."

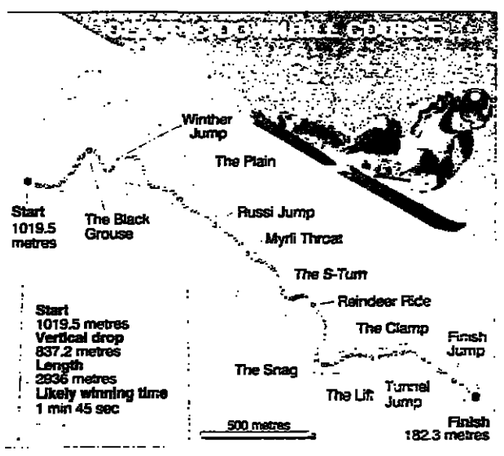
If only all competitors were as easily contented. Both are supported by travel agents. Graham is with Nielsen, the mass-market tour operators, Martin with Bladon Lines. They wear the company logos, and give occasional training courses to staff.

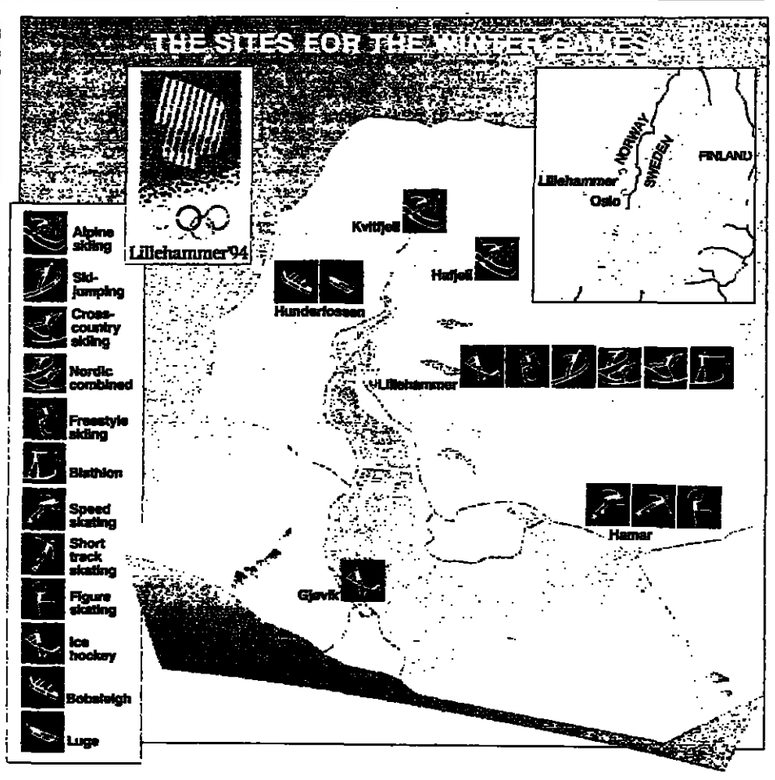
Their form has improved this season with a switch to Volkl skis: no financial backing, just the supply of skis. They had not been receiving the best equipment from Fischer, changed to Head in *1991, but neither felt they were* getting to grips with Head's turning characteristics, never mind that Head supply the top Austrians such as Ortlieb — the defending champion — Trinkl and Assinger.

The Bells are optimistic for tomorrow. "It's not an intimidating course, but it's technical," Graham says. "You've got to carry your speed through the turns. It's better than the new Olympic course at Val D'Isère was two years ago, where you had to check your speed on the bends."

Cynics then said it was an oversized super-G course for under-sized French, a sarcastic reference to Piccard's silver medal.

Tomorrow, however, the medals are likely to go to the fast men, which is the way it should be in this event made for the brave.





FULL SCHEDULE AND TELEVISION TIMES

All times GMT

TODAY: 1500: Opening ceremony. Ice hockey: 1100: Finland v Czech Republic. 1730: Russia v Norway. 2000: Austria v Germany

TOMORROW: 1000: Men's downhill skiing. 0900: cross country skiing, women's 15km freestyle. 1900: Figure skating, pairs technical programme Ice hockey: 1400: Sweden v Slovakia; 1630: Italy v Canada; 1900: France v United States. 0900: Luge, men's singles first and second runs 1400: Speedskating, men's 5,000.

FEBRUARY 14: 1000: Skiing, men's combined downhill. 0930: Cross country skiing, men's 30 km freestyle. Ice hockey: 1400: Germany v Norway; 1630: Czech Republic v Austria; 1900: Russia v Finland 0900: Luge, men's singles, third and fourth runs. 1300: Speedskating, men's 500.

FEBRUARY 15: 1000: Skiing, women's Super G. 0900: Cross country skiing, women's 5km classical 1900: Figure skating, pairs, freestyle event. 1130: Freestyle skiing, men's and women's moguls elimination ice hockey: 1400: Sweden v Italy; 1630: United States v Slovakia. 1900: Canada v France. 0900: Luge, women's singles, first and second runs

FEBRUARY 16: 1130: Freestyle skiing, men's and women's moguls final. Ice hockey: 1400: Austria v Russia; 1630: Czech Republic v Germany 1900: Norway v Finland. 0900: Luge, women's singles, third and fourth run. 1300: Speedskating, men's 1,500 and 1300

FEBRUARY 17: 1000: Skiing, men's Super G Cross country 0930: Men's 10km classical. 1130: Women's free pursuit. 1800: Figure skating, men's technical programme Ice hockey 1400: Slovakia v Italy; 1630: France v Sweden; 1900: Canada v United States. 1300: Speedskating, women's 3,000.

FEBRUARY 18: 0900: Biathlon, women's 15km. 1800: Figure skating, ice dancing compulsories Ice hockey 1400: Germany v Russia; 1630: Finland v Austria; 1900: Czech Republic v Norway. Luge, men's doubles, first and second runs. 1130: Nordic combined, Individual 90m ski jump. Speedskating, men's 1,000 and 1300

FEBRUARY 19: 1000: Skiing, women's downhill. 0900: Bobsleighing, two-man first and second runs 1130: Cross country skiing, men's 15km free pursuit. 1800: Figure skating, men's freestyle. Ice hockey: 1400: Canada v Slovakia; 1630: Italy v France; 1900: United States v Sweden. 0930: Nordic combined, Individual 15km cross country. 1300: Speedskating, women's 500 and 1300

FEBRUARY 20: 1000: Skiing, women's combined downhill. 0900: Biathlon, men's 20km; Bobsleighing, two-man third and fourth runs. 1800: Figure skating, ice dancing originals Ice hockey: 1400: Russia v Czech Republic; 1630: Germany v Finland; 1900: Norway v Austria. 1200: Ski jumping, 120m special jump 1300: Speedskating, men's 10,000 and 1300.

FEBRUARY 21: Skiing: 0930: Women's combined slalom, first run; 1200: Women's combined slalom, second run. 0930: Cross country skiing, women's 4x5 km relay. 1800: Figure skating, ice dancing, freestyle 1200: Freestyle skiing, aerials semi-finals; 1300: Speedskating, women's 1500 and 1300 Ice hockey: 1400: Sweden v Canada; 1800: Slovakia v France; 1900: United States v Italy.

FEBRUARY 22: 0930: Cross country, men's 4x10km relay Ice hockey 1500: consolation match, 2000: consolation match. Short track speedskating: 1800: Men's 1,000 and 1800 and women's 3,000 relay. 1130: Ski jumping, 120m team.

FEBRUARY 23: Skiing: 0930: Men's giant slalom, first run. 1230: Men's giant slalom, second run. Biathlon: 0900: Women's 7.5km. 1200: Men's 10km. Figure skating: 1800: Women's technical programme Ice hockey: Quarter-finals at 1400, 1530, 1830 and 2000. 1030: Nordic combined, Team 90m ski jumping. 1500: Speedskating, women's 1,000 and 1500.

FEBRUARY 24: Skiing: 0930: Women's giant slalom, first run; 1200: Women's giant slalom, second run. 1130: Cross country skiing, women's 30km classical. 1100: Freestyle skiing, aerials finals. Ice hockey: 1400: Ninth place match; 1530: 11th place match; 1830: Consolation; 2000: Consolation. 0900: Nordic combined, Team 3x10km cross country. 1800: Short track speedskating, women's 500, men's 500 qualifying and men's 5,000 relay qualifying.

FEBRUARY 25: Skiing: 0830: Men's combined slalom, first run; 1200: Men's combined slalom, second run. 0900: Biathlon, women's 4x7.5 km relay. 1800: Figure skating, women's freestyle. Ice hockey: Semi-finals at 1830 and 2000. 1130: Ski jumping, 90m. 1300: Speedskating, women's 5,000 and 1300.

FEBRUARY 26: Skiing: 0830: Women's slalom, first run. 1200: Women's slalom, second run. 1200: Biathlon, men's 4x7.5 km relay. 0900: Bobsleighing, four-man first-second run. 1400: Figure skating, exhibition. Ice hockey: 1530: Seventh place match; 2000: Third place match. Short track speedskating 1800: Women's 1,000 and 1800; Men's 500 finals and 5,000 relay finals.

FEBRUARY 27: Skiing: 0830: Men's slalom first run; 1200: Men's slalom, second run 0900: Bobsleighing, four-man, third and fourth runs 0900: Cross country skiing, 50km classical. 1415: Ice hockey final. 1900: Closing ceremony.

TELEVISION COVERAGE: Today: BBC1: 1250 to 1300 (latest news). BBC2: 1500 to 1700 (coverage of opening ceremony). 2345 to 0035 (highlights of day's action). Tomorrow: BBC2: 0810 to 1130, 1800 to 1900 (best of day's action) and 2145 to 2235 (start of figure skating competitions).

Briton among judges for dance competition

FROM MICHAEL COLEMAN
IN HAMAR

IT MUST be the effects of the Northern Lights, the Arctic phenomenon that forms the logo for the Lillehammer Games. Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean have struck lucky again. Mary Parry, of Britain, was drawn yesterday among the nine judges who will decide the dance contest here. Ten names were in the hat and the unlucky reserve will be from the United States.

Russia, Finland and France, the other medal contenders, will also have judges on a balanced panel which should ensure fair play.

It was the British couple's second stroke of good fortune. The late withdrawal of Italy's skaters obliged the Italian judge to step down, making room for Parry on the panel.

It will be next Friday before the dance gets under way with the compulsories but there will have been an unprecedented feast of figure skating before then, for nine Olympic and six world champions are here.

Several of the reinstated professionals, such as Brian Boitano (United States) and Katarina Witt (Germany), could be said to have passed their sell-by dates, having little new to offer. They are simply dressing up what they showed before and gambling on their presence and glamour swaying the judges, critics of the decision to throw the sport open will argue.

The same comment could be made about Viktor Petrenko (Ukraine), who showed nothing different when winning the European title in Copenhagen last month. His presence here denies a place on the Olympic stage to his countryman, Vyacheslav Zagorodnyuk, and there are others of the present generation similarly deprived. It is skaters of the calibre of Philippe Candeloro, of France, and the Finnish dancers, Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko, who deserve the media focus.

The pairs contest opens tomorrow with the Russian defending champions, Natalya Mishkutyonok and Artur Dmitryev, facing a daunting task against the Olympic champions of 1988, Yekaterina Gordeyeva and Sergei Grinkov, from Moscow. Both pairs had been reinstated, the former turning professional too quickly after their Albertville success in 1992 when they had much more to give.

Since Calgary, Grinkov and Gordeyeva have married and had a son, born in the United States. Tomorrow's technical programme should see them at their best, their line and classical flow is faultless and their elevation in jumps incomparable. During the summer the British entrants, Jackie Soames and John Jenkins spent time in St Petersburg with Mishkutyonok and Dmitryev seeking improvement.

This was reflected at the Lalique Trophy contest in Paris but they failed utterly in the national championships. Their target will be selection for the world championships in Japan next month.

At Hamar's other ice-skating stadium, the Viking Ship speed track where the watch and not the judges decide, Johan Olav Koss will tomorrow try to bring Norway its first gold medal in the 5,000 metres.On this high-tech track Koss set a world record on December 4 but his joy was short-lived. Five weeks later, the Dutchman Rintje Ritsma, beat him overall in the European championship.

FA risking accusations of double standards

BY ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN is a contract not a contract? Earlier this season, the Football Association fined Tottenham Hotspur £25,000 for recruiting Osvaldo Ardiles while he was under contract to West Bromwich Albion.

This week, the FA issued Wembley Stadium with a stark ultimatum. Either renegotiate the 20-year deal between the two which runs until 2002, or the England matches, the Cup Final, the sundry big games will be taken elsewhere.

On the face of it, the FA is operating double standards; the rulers appear to have wandered offside. If they take their ball away from Wembley, and the lawyers allow that, at least half the country might be pleased. The north of England would welcome the national team with open arms, and thousands who felt disenfranchised from supporting England in the flesh could get their way. Equally, there are players, particularly those of the burgeoning lower



Phillips: seeks new deal

league clubs now eyeing the Twin Towers, who could be deprived of a once-in-a-lifetime appearance.

There lies the emotive pull that has made Wembley and football synonomous for over 70 years. It is because of football — and the once-unique attraction that the English game was around the world — that Wembley is recognised as the temple.

However, while players and supporters still hunt for Wembley glory, the administrators become more commercial. It is the FA's misfortune, and very much the good fortune of the stadium proprietors, that a deal as long as 20 years was struck back in 1983. "It should never have been signed in the first place," laments Trevor Phillips, the FA commercial director.

But it was, and though this is the inheritance rather than the fault of Phillips, that does not give him the right to make public threats to dishonour the contract. "The gloves are off," Phillips was reported as saying this week. "We have told Wembley we are preparing to walk. They do not believe us, but that's what we will do."

Legally, there is just a suspicion of correctness in the FA's attempt to renegotiate the contract. Strangely there appears to have been a get-out clause within the original contract that allows for renegotiation if either party could demonstrate that circumstances had changed so much that one side was dramatically disadvantaged financially. The FA sees this as its case.

Phillips and Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, have for years felt sore at the circumstances. Wembley takes between 28 and 32 per cent of gate receipts, 25 per cent of the television revenue, but takes all of the car park fees, the programme receipts and the perimeter advertising and sponsorship.

That last item is the one that the FA negotiators negligently under-estimated in 1983, and it is the one on which Wembley is about to sign a new five-year deal with ten international companies to advertise around the stadium.

"We are the biggest customer at Wembley, yet we seem to operate on less favourable terms than the others," Phillips said earlier this month. Whose fault is that? The FA signitaries to the contract were the secretary, Ted Croker, and the chairman, Bert Millichip.

Croker has since died, leaving unspoken the reasons why he apparently changed from opponent to co-operator in the space of a couple of days in 1983. We shall therefore never know, unless Sir Bert unlocks his near-octogenarian memory, why the FA sold themselves so short.

On the other side, who can blame the Wembley Stadium chairman, Sir Brian Wolfson, trying as he is to shore up an and indebted company, from squeezing every penny he can legally?

Wolfson spoke this week of honorable expectations from the men at Lancaster Gate; he ignored insinuation from outside the FA that the fans of football are being made to pay for the shareholders of Wembley.

At the moment, profits on Wembley are feeble, its share value had plunged from 152p in 1987 to 17p in 1993, and the debts had soared beyond £100 million. It is a financial tale far beyond the minds even of those millionaire players who strut the famous turf. There is a question at this moment not as to whether Wembley is worthy of the game, but whether England's national team are worthy of following their predecessors.

However, when a contract is signed it is surely to be expected that the two parties will in the end have to abide by it. We have a clutch of post-Taylor rebuilt stadiums that are more modern than Wembley; but surely not even Old Trafford will ever acquire the same respect.

Bright's sights set on Wembley

Peter Ball reports on a striker aiming to end Manchester United's hopes of the treble

After Sheffield Wednesday's disappointing performance against Chelsea in the FA Cup in midweek, David Hirst's return to fitness could be an important psychological boost for Trevor Francis's side when they meet Manchester United in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final at Old Trafford tomorrow. However, the main threat to United could come from Hirst's partner, Mark Bright, who has been bearing the brunt of Wednesday's attacking responsibility in Hirst's absence.

This season, like last, Bright is Wednesday's leading scorer, with 18 goals, a fine return for a player whose main strength is that he is an all-rounder rather than an out-and-out goalscorer. "I think whoever has played with me has played well," he said. "I'm probably rather like Graeme Sharp, who is good at taking the responsibility for being the player who all the time shows off his partner."

Ian Wright, Hirst and Paul Warhurst could all testify to Bright's value as a partner, yet at the start of the season his future at Hillsborough looked far from secure.

Francis initially decided that his main strike force would consist of Warhurst, whose conversion from defence was the success story of last season, and Hirst, an England international. That left Bright on the outside looking in, apparently available for transfer if the right offer came along. It was not a situation he took kindly to. "To be left out after what I had achieved at the club, after being top scorer last season, really hurt," he said.

But rather than accept a move to Everton, he decided to stay and fight for his place. "Trevor probably thought I was very arrogant, because when he told me he was leaving me out, I said I would be top scorer at the club this season," Bright said.

"But David has had problems with injuries, so I thought I would get my chance, and Paul's goals last season were all 'Roy of the Rovers' stuff, brilliant strikes, and we had to wait and see if he could continue in that vein.



Bright has been in prolific form for Sheffield Wednesday this season

"I couldn't see David and Paul playing together anyway, they would both want to do the same things, make the same runs. I thought they needed me to act as leader of the line, someone who could bring the wide men or the midfield players into play."

His analysis proved accurate as Wednesday failed to score in their first four games. Bright broke the spell when he was drafted in for the fifth. Soon, instead of Bright moving on, it was Warhurst who left for Blackburn.

Although he has scored eleven goals in his last 12 games, one of the most prolific spells of his career, any desire to gloat is kept firmly under control. More than most of his colleagues, he is eager to return to Wembley and put the record straight, for his previous visits have not been happy. He has played there seven times, only the FA Cup semi-final against Sheffield United ending satisfactorily, when he scored the winner.

The three finals all ended in defeats after a draw, and in two of them Bright was involved in unsavoury incidents, which he now regrets. "Someone said that in a final the thing is to do something everyone will remember," he said, "but the two things I will be remembered for are a foul on Les Sealey and an incident with Andy Linighan."

Nobody will push Bright aside, but the incidents were out of character. Now he is a substantial obstacle to United's hopes of the domestic treble. "I just feel we're destined to win the Coca-Cola Cup this year, I've just got that feeling about it," he said.

Blackburn can cut United's lead

BY KEITH PIKE

THE chasing pack will this weekend drag tired bodies and bruised egos back into Premiership action as it resumes the seemingly hopeless pursuit of Manchester United. After one door to Europe was shut in midweek, defeat will see another closing ever more rapidly.

Blackburn Rovers, Arsenal and Newcastle United, the teams second, third and fourth respectively, are all away from home, and all must win if they are to get on the road to recovery after suffering FA Cup humiliation at first division hands.

Today, Blackburn and Newcastle travel to London hoping to capitalise on United's involvement in the semi-finals of the Coca-Cola Cup. United play Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow when Arsenal, who are third, venture out of town to Norwich City. Of the three, only Blackburn will travel more in expectation than hope.

They play a Tottenham Hotspur team still ravaged by injuries and hoping to avoid a sixth successive Premiership defeat. Shearer is a short price to score his 28th goal of the season, and his fiftieth for Blackburn in his 59th appearance. Victory, and United's lead — at present 13 points — will be at its slimmest for four months.

As Blackburn have come to depend on Shearer, so Newcastle and Arsenal have become reliant on Cole and Wright — or, to be precise, over-reliant. Now, with that pair ruled out for at least a fortnight because of a damaged shoulder and hamstring injury respectively, a more testing examination of the teams' strengths awaits. The omens for Newcastle, in particular, are not good. They meet Wimbledon at Selhurst Park where, on October 27, a Cole-free team — the homesick striker had gone walkabout in London — went out of the Coca-Cola Cup.

His loss, though, is compensated for by the availability of Fox, cup-tied in midweek, to make his debut after a £2.25 million transfer from Norwich.

The East Anglian team will be meeting Arsenal for the fourth time this season and have yet to beat them. George Graham, the Arsenal manager, yesterday said he will refuse to be pressured into panic-buying to improve the team.

Swindon Town go to Aston Villa today seeking their first away victory. It would be enough to take them off the bottom of the table for the first time this season.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Foulds gains little comfort in victory

NEAL Foulds reached the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker tournament yesterday, however, after his 5-1 victory over Dennis Taylor at Wembley Conference Centre, he said that "something dramatic" would need to happen for him to return next year.

In the first six ranking tournaments of the season, Foulds has won only two matches and has fallen from fourteenth to 33rd in the provisional standings. Should he lose his place among the leading 16, he would have to rely on a sponsor's wild card to compete in the 1995 Masters. Benson and Hedges would surely not refuse to grant this to a defending champion, but nothing less will do.

Against Taylor, Foulds cleared the last two reds and colours for a black ball win to take a decisive 3-1 lead. Taylor missed three straightforward reds in the fifth frame and Foulds completed victory by compiling the highest break of the match, an 80 in the next.

Martin's fatal accident

CYCLING: Antonio Martin, a rising star of Spanish cycling, was killed in an accident yesterday while training near his home at Torrelaguna, outside Madrid, police said. Martin, aged 23, who this season signed for the Banesto team led by Miguel Indurain, was in a collision with a car. Martin finished twelfth in his first appearance in the Tour de France last year and was considered one of Spain's best hopes to take over from Indurain as the country's leading rider.

The course for the opening road race of the season at Rowland's Castle, Hampshire, tomorrow has been changed because of flooding. The new course takes in the hard, 400ft climb of West Marden Hill, which features in the Tour de France route this year. The Perfs Pedal event marks the traditional start of the racing calendar and Mick Waite, the organiser, has reduced the usual distance of 52 miles to 45 because he considers five climbs of the hill, with a one in seven gradient, will be taxing enough for the 70 competitors.

Harrogate's mission

HOCKEY: A crowd of at least 500 is expected tomorrow at Ben Rhydding club in Yorkshire, where Harrogate will meet Reading in the quarter-finals of the Hockey Association Cup. Harrogate, from the second division of the North Premier League, are a point behind Stockton, the leaders, whom they play today. Harrogate will be driven on from midfield tomorrow by Jason Cooper, formerly of Brooklands. Southgate face Havant at Broomfield School in the Pizza Express national league today and Hounslow, the holders, in the Cup quarter-finals tomorrow.

Nielsen back on track

BADMINTON: Anders Nielsen's attempt to regain the English national title began with two straight-games wins over Marc Miller and Michael Edge at Norwich yesterday. Last year's Sunday schedule, of semi-finals and finals, made him collapse with cramp and he criticised the Badminton Association of England for retaining the schedule. BAE events director, Tom Marrs, said: "This schedule is the best way to get more spectators and more gate money. Without that there would be no prize-money. The national championships must be accessible to all."

New Zealanders move

RUGBY LEAGUE: Bradford Northern have agreed terms with Doncaster for their New Zealand back Carl Hall, who has scored 18 tries for the second division side this season. Hall, 24, will fill a vacancy on Bradford's roster of overseas players following the release last year of Brett Iti. Dean Clark, the former New Zealand stand-off half, is cutting short his stay at Hull Kingston Rovers and returning home. He is being linked with the new Auckland Warriors club. Barrie McDermott, of Oldham, has received a two-match suspension for a high tackle in a game against Sheffield Eagles.

Marshall's third title

SQUASH: The England No 1, Peter Marshall, from Nottingham, completed a clean sweep of home titles when he beat second-ranked Chris Walker by 15-10, 15-11, 12-15, 15-9 in the final of the British Super Challenge at the Welsh Back Club, Bristol. Walker, who lost the first two games in 41 minutes, hit back to take the third and was well in contention in the fourth before he began to tire. Marshall, who also holds the national and British professional titles, will try for his first international tournament success in Britain next week in Cardiff in the Leekes Welsh Classic.

All hands are female

YACHTING: Bill Koch, winning skipper in the 1992 America's Cup series, is assembling an all-woman team to try to defend the trophy in 1995. "We would like to break the tradition that this has been almost entirely a male-dominated sport in the 142 years since the first race," Koch said. Koch defended the trophy for the San Diego Yacht Club in 1992, with America³ defeating Il Moro of Italy 4-1 in the final. Two other syndicates competing to be defender, Team Dennis Conner and Pact 95, must approve the all-female plan, Wytie Cable, the chairman of the defence committee, said.

Hard labour for Prenn

RACKETS: Rupert Owen-Browne achieved one of the best wins of his career when he put out the third seed, John Prenn, the former world champion, to reach the semi-final of the Lacoste British Open at Queen's Club, London, yesterday. Prenn, who recently became a father, appeared short of match practice against a hard-hitting opponent and, although he levelled the match at two games all, he did not secure another point after 7-7 in the final game. Neil Smith, the favourite, looked sharp and determined as he put out the talented Ally Robinson in straight games.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Igls	15	70	good powder		fair	cloud	3	11/2
	(Superb skiing after new snow)							
Mayrhofen	10	115	good powder		closed	snow	-8	11/2
	(Very good skiing on all pistes)							
Obergurgl	105	155	good	varied	good	fine	-5	11/2
	(Superb skiing conditions but high winds)							
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	130	220	good	varied	good	sun	-15	10/2
	(Fabulous skiing though some windblown slopes)							
La Plagne	155	320	good	powder	good	fine	-5	10/2
	(Excellent skiing in fresh powder)							
Tignes	170	300	good	powder	good	fine	-9	10/2
	(Excellent powder skiing at all levels)							
Val d'Isère	130	340	good	powder	good	sun	-5	10/2
	(Excellent piste skiing at all heights)							
ITALY								
Corvina	25	130	good	varied	good	sun	2	8/2
	(Good skiing on all runs, but some icy patches)							
Livigno	100	210	good	powder	good	snow	-6	11/2
	(Excellent skiing everywhere)							
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	40	170	good	varied	good	cloud	0	10/2
	(Excellent skiing with moguls growing again)							
Klosters	75	200	good	powder	good	snow	1	11/2
	(Heavy snowfall and winds closing some lifts)							
Wengen	30	105	good	powder	good	fine	-3	11/2
	(Superb skiing conditions everywhere)							

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes, U - upper, art - artificial.

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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

OSAKA, Japan: International indoor meeting (Japanese unless stated): Men: 60m: M Green (Jam) 6.53sec. 60m hurdles: J Pierce (US) 7.62sec. Pole vault: S Bubka (Ukr) 5.85m. High jump: S Kostadinova (Bul) 1.95m. Women: 60m: 1, G Devers (US) 7.04sec. 60m hurdles: M Freeman (Jam) 7.98sec.

BADMINTON

NORWICH: English national championships: Men: Singles, first round: P Bush (Wal) bt R Mistri (Kent) 15-4, 15-4; M Brown (Yorks) bt S Bish (Essex) 15-0, 15-9; P Smith (Surrey) bt M Constable (Warwicks) 15-11, 15-11; R Pittinger (Middx) bt C Beck (Bucks) 15-10, 12-15, 15-11; Kum Wai Kok (Essex) bt P Hinder (Wilt) 15-6 15-2, S Pandya (Staffs) bt R Nook (Glos) 17-16, 15-9; S Isaac (Sussex) bt N Parasser (Yorks) 15-5, 15-3; P Knowles (Kent) bt P Sheppard (Herts) 15-9, 15-4; E Plane (Norfolk) bt C Palmer (Essex) 15-11, 15-6; A Bush (Wilt) bt S Turnbull (Kent) 15-7, 15-7; M Edge (Lancs) bt N Waterman (Kent) 15-9, 15-6; A Nielsen (Surrey) bt M Miller (Beds) 15-8, 15-4; D Hall (Essex) bt C Sheppard (Herts) 15-5, 15-3; R Doling (Kent) bt M Tripp (Sussex) 15-5, 15-10; C Haughton (Lancs) bt C Fenton (Yorks) 15-8, 15-12; A Cottrell (Glos) bt T Dennis (Surrey) 14-18, 12-15, 15-10 Women: First round: T Hallam (Staffs) bt R Rule (Lancs) 11-3, 11-0; E Chaffin (Surrey) bt L Woodley (Berks) 11-3, 11-0; B Beal (Devon) bt K Caulby (Sussex) 12-10, 12-9; V Kandawasvam (Avon) bt G Emms (Beds) 9-12, 12-10, 11-4; S Hore (Herts) bt T Dineen (Essex) 11-2, 11-0; W Taylor (Sussex) bt E Miles (Ches) 11-3, 11-4.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Atlanta 114 Miami 98; Denver 81 Houston 104; New York 105 Golden State 113; Milwaukee 80 Chicago 97; Dallas 87 Washington 77; San Antonio 94 Denver 87; LA Lakers 84 Sacramento 103.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby Bucks 106 Oldham Celtics 94

	P	W	L	For	Ag	Pt
Manchester Giants	25	22	3	2614	2090	44
Worthing Bears	25	22	3	2341	2088	44
Thames Valley Tigers	22	20	2	2081	1690	40
Guildford Kings	24	15	9	2125	1956	30
London Towers	26	14	12	2201	2282	28
Birmingham Bullets	21	13	8	1758	1661	26
Derby Bucks	23	12	11	2035	1939	24
Leicester City	24	11	13	1974	1966	22
Chester Jets	24	9	15	1906	1999	18
Sunderland	26	9	17	2284	2448	18
Doncaster	22	5	17	1709	1897	10
Hemel Royals	24	2	22	2011	2412	4
Oldham Celtics	24	1	23	1527	2347	2

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final round-robin stage: Group A: Barcelona (Sp) 94 Guildford Kings 66; Mechelen (Bel) 70 Olympiakos (Gr) 88; Benetton Treviso (It) 61 Limoges (Fr) 86.
Group B: Joventut Badalona (Sp) 78 Pau Orthez (Fr) 66; Cibona Zagreb (Croatia) 76 Benfica (Por) 63; Efes Pilsen Istanbul (Tur) 83 Virtus Bologna (It) 77.

CRICKET

RED STRIPE CUP: Georgetown (first day of four): Guyana 241 (R Harper 79, S Dhanaram 57, K Benjamin 4-50), Leeward Islands 48-1.

CYCLING

TORROX COSTA, Spain: Ruta del Sol event: Third stage: (202km). 1, A Baffi (It) 5hr 41min 45sec; 2, A Guenechea (Sp); 3, Jo Planckaert (Bel); 4, J Svorada (Cz); 5, M de Clercq (Bel), all same time
Overall positions: 1, Baffi 14hr 2min 20sec; 2, Svorada, 3, A Gutierrez (Sp); 4, Planckaert; 5, de Clercq, all same time
ANTIBES, France: Mediterranean Tour, fifth stage (139km): 1, M Cipollini (It) 3hr 20min 32sec. 2, F Baldato (It), 3, A Gontchenkov (Ukr); 4, D Abdujabarov (Uzbek); 5, O Ludwig (Ger) all same time.
British: C Boardman, at 38 sec. Overall: 1, Baldato 12hr 31min 58sec; 2, D Cascarri (It) at 12; 3, J Museuw (Bel) 21, 4, E Berzin (It) 41; 5, M Scandin (It) 59. British: 71, Boardman 6:33.

FOOTBALL

Late results on Thursday
DIADORA LEAGUE: Carlsberg Cup: Second round: Barnstead 2 Lewes 0; Chertsey 4 Metropolitan Police 0
NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Brighton 1 Luton 1; Bristol City 0 Arsenal 0
POINTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Leeds 0 Notts County 1; Sheffield Wednesday 5 York 1. Second division: Stoke 2 Barnsley 2; Middlesbrough 1 Scunthorpe 1
FA OF IRELAND CUP: First round: Dundalk 0 Galway Utd 0 (abandoned, waterlogged pitch); Glenmore Celtic 1 Sligo Rovers 2; Home Farm 2 Athlone Town 1; UCD 1 Finn Harps 3.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: English schools Adidas U-15 Trophy: Sussex 4 Inner London 1, English Eccles Trophy: Leicester 1 Cambridge 0 English Schools Adidas under-19 trophy: Merseyside 1 Cheshire 0, Suffolk 2 Hertfordshire 1. Adidas under-15 trophy: Lancashire 4 Cheshire 1. English Mars under-18 trophy second round: Exeter College 5 New College, Swindon 2; St Cuthbert's, Newcastle 1 Wolfreton, Hull 0. English Schools under-18 trophy second round: Campion, RC, Liverpool 3 Brodsvale, Runcorn 1; Brimsworth, Rotherham 4 Boston Spa, West Yorkshire 1; Ravensbourne, Kent 0 King Alfreds, Oxon 2, Dame Alice Owens, Hertfordshire 0 Rampton Manor, Essex 2, Males Lambert, Hull 3 Matthew Murray, Leeds 1.
PORTUGUESE CUP: Sixth round. Sporting Lisbon 2 Setubal 1
GERMAN CUP: Quarter-final: Werder Bremen 2 Kaiserslautern 2 (aet, score after 90min 1-1, Werder Bremen win 4-3 on pens).
ITALIAN CUP: Semi-final First leg: Ancona 1 Torino 0.
BRAZIL: São Paulo championship: America/SJ do Rio Preto 1 Ituano 0, Bragantino 2 Novorizontino 0. Ponte Preta 0 Santos 0, Portuguesa 4 Rio Branco 2; Santo Andre 0 Mogi Mirim 1, São Paulo 3 Guarani 1. . . Rio de Janeiro championship: Americano 1 Botafogo 0; Fluminense 5 Campo Grande 0; Olaria 1 America/Rio de Janeiro 0; Volta Redonda 0 Flamengo 1. Brazil Cup, first round, first leg: Quatro de Julho 1 Palmeiras 3.

GOLF

PACIFIC PALISADES, California: Los Angeles Open (US unless stated): 64: T Purcer. 66: C Beck, J Parnevik (Swe), 67: J Delsing, D Frost (SA), C Pavin, N Henke, F Zoeller, F Couples. 68: N Lancaster, M Allen, J Woodland (Aus), L Clements, K Triplett, C Stadler (B) P Blackmar, P Jacobsen, S Hoch, A Bean, M Springer, M Donald, J Haas, J McGovern, D Hammond, T Lehman, T Watson, M Dawson, R Zokol (Can), J Rassett, M O'Meara, K Murota (Japan).
SAN LORENZO, Algarve: Longshot-Golf Weekly tournament: Third round: 206: M Sludds (Hesketh) 70, 69, 69 213: C Cox (Florida Designs) 74, 73, 66 216: N Brown (Mid Herts) 73,75, 68 217: A Preston (Three Hammers) 71, 72, 74 218: P Allan (Ashton-in-Makerfield) 74, 69, 75 220: C Giddins (Cowdray Park) 76, 76, 68. D Butler (Coombe Wood) 73, 70, 77, M Bishop (Toot Hill) 71, 75, 74, 222: M Belsham (Malmer And Kingsdown) 72, 71, 79 223: T Spence (Sheerness) 72, 76, 75, G Hill (Rochford Hundred) 72, 76, 73 224: W McColl (Northenden) 73, 73, 78 225: M Ivng (Sunningdale) 73, 74, 78, 226: D Bailey (Watford Driving Range) 74, 78, 74.
Team: 397: McColl 400: King 405: Sludds, P Hammond (Shanklin and Sandown)

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 3 Buffalo 3 (OT); New Jersey 7 Vancouver 3; Ottawa 2 Tampa Bay 6, Philadelphia 4 Florida 3 (OT); NY Islanders 5 Pittsburgh 3; St Louis 3, Washington 4.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: British open championship. Quarter-finals: N Smith bt A Robinson 15-9, 15-4, 15-4; T Cockroft bt F Brake 7-15, 17-14, 8-15, 15-10, 15-9; R Owen-Browne bt J Prenn 8-15, 15-10, 15-10, 6-15, 15-7; W Boone bt J Spurling 15-2, 13-15, 15-3, 15-4

RUGBY UNION

UAU CHAMPIONSHIP: Third round: Manchester 37 Dundee 14, Edinburgh 9 Northumbria 11, Durham 30 Cardiff IHE 22. Sheffield Hallam 18 Loughborough 8, Swansea 63 Gwent IHE 3; St Mary's College 9 Roehampton 14; Bath 21 Exeter 13; Charing Cross 9 West London IHE 41. Quarter-final draw: Manchester v Northumbria, Durham v Sheffield Hallam, Swansea v Roehampton; Bath v West London IHE.

SKIING

SALEN, Sweden: Aerials: Men: 1, P Laroche (Can) 240.65pts, 2, N Fontaine (Can) 238.26, 3, S Foucras (Fr) 232.41. Women: 1, L Tcherjazova (Uz) 176.30, 2, C Brand (Switz) 173.80, 3, M Lindgren (Swe) 168.09

SQUASH

BRISTOL: British Super Challenge final (at Welsh Back Club): P Marshall (Nottingham) bt C Walker (Colchester) 15-10, 15-11, 12-15, 15-9

SNOOKER

WEMBLEY: Benson and Hedges Masters: Quarter-finals: S Hendry (Scot) bt S James (Eng) 5-2, J Wattana (Thai) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 5-4, N Foulds (Eng) bt D Taylor (N Ire) 5-1.

TABLE TENNIS

WORLD RANKINGS: Men: 1, J-M Saive (Bel), 2, J-O Waldner (Swe), 3, Ma Wenge (China), 4, Wang Tao (China), 5, Kim Taek Soo (S Kor); 6, J-P Gatien (Fr) 7, P Karlsson (Swe), 8, A Grubba (Pol); 9, Z Primorac (Cro); 10, Li Gun Sang (N Kor) Women: 1, Deng Yaping (China), 2, Qiao Hong (China); 3, Hyun Jung Hwa (S Kor); 4, Gao Jun (China), 5, Chen Jihe (China), 6, Chen Jing (Taiwan), 7, Chai Po Wa (HK); 8, Li Bun Hui (N Korea); 9, Yu Sun Bok (N Kor); 10, Tang Weiyi (China).

TENNIS

SUNDERLAND: LTA Women's Satellite tournament: Semi-finals: G Coorengel (Holl) bt S Schmidle (Ger) 6-4, 3-6, 7-5; M Maruska (Austria) bt A Franken (Ger) 6-2, 6-3
MEMPHIS: Men's Indoor tournament: Third round: J Couner (US) bt D Randall (US) 6-3, 6-3; P Haarhuis bt J Stark (US) 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, B Gilbert (US) bt C Adams (US) 6-3, 6-0; A O'Brien (US) bt C Caratti (It) 6-4, 6-4 T Martin (US) bt J Hlasek (Switz) 7-5, 7-5, K Braasch (Ger) bt M Chang (US) 6-4, 6-3; T Engvist (Swe) bt M Washington (US) 6-7, 7-6, 6-1.
CHICAGO: WTA tournament: Second round: N Zvereva (Belorus) bt B Schultz (Holl) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; C Rubin (US) bt K Po (US) 6-2, 2-6, 6-2. Quarter-final: L McNeil (US) bt L Davenport (US) 7-5, 6-2.
MILAN: Men's tournament: Second round: R Agenor (Haiti) bt M Stich (Ger) 2-6, 7-6, 6-3; K Novacek (Cz) bt H Leconte (Fr) 7-5, 3-6, 7-6; B Becker (Ger) bt A Mansdorf 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, G Ivanisevic (Croatia) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 6-3, 6-2. Quarter-finals: R Agenor (Haiti) bt W Masur (Aus) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; S Bruguera (Sp) bt K Novacek (Cz Rep) 6-1, 6-0, P Korda (Cz Rep) bt G Ivanisevic (Croatia) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.
LINZ, Austria: Women's tournament: Second round: A Huber (Ger) bt C Singer (Ger) 6-3, 6-2; S Cecchini (It) bt L Richterova (Cz) 6-4, 5-7, 6-4; J Makarova (Russ) bt B Rensaccller (Austria) 6-4, 6-3; L Meshki (Georgia) bt E Callens (Bel) 7-5, 6-3.
COVENTRY: LTA Men's Indoor Satellite Circuit: Second round: S Herdoiza (US) bt T Krupa (Cz) 6-1, 4-6, 8-3, F Cousin (Bel) bt P Hand (GB) 6-4, 6-3, M Barnard (SA) bt T Herman (GB) 6-2, 6-2; A Lesch (Ger) bt B Galik (Swtz) 7-5, 6-3; J Krajsak (Slovakia) bt A Beaut (Fr) 6-3, 6-3, E Ferreira (SA) bt J Pallion (Cz Rep) 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, B Gyetko (Can) bt B Cowan (GB) 7-6, 6-0, A Vysand (Estonia) bt C Geyer (Ger) 6-2, 3-0 (rtd). Quarter-finals: A Vysand (Estonia) bt B Gyetko (Can) 6-3, 6-3, E Ferreira (SA) bt J Krajsak (Slo) 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, M Barnard (SA) bt A Lesch (Ger) 6-2, 7-6, F Cousin (Bel) bt S Herdoiza (US) 6-2, 6-4
OSAKA, Japan: WTA tournament: Quarter-finals: M Maleeva-Fragnière (Switz) bt Y Kamio (Japan) 6-1, 6-4; bt Endo (Japan) bt M Miyauchi (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, A Sugiyama (Japan) bt K Bodger (Holl) 6-3, 6-3; I Majoli (Croatia) bt P Sung-Hee (S Kor) 7-5, 6-7, 6-2.
LEADING MEN'S RANKINGS: 1, P Sampras (US) 4,573pts; 2, M Stich (Ger) 3,282; 3, J Couner (US) 3,115; 4, G Bruguera (Sp) 2,727; 5, S Edberg (Swe) 2,542, 6, A Medvedev (Ukr) 2,415, 7, G Ivanisevic (Cro) 2,252; 8, M Chang (US) 2,197, 9, T Martin (US) 2,196; 10, M Gustafsson (Swe) 2,127 British rankings: 120, J Bates, 365, 122, M Petchey 358, 126, G Wilkinson 337, 174, C Bailey 229, 186, A Foster 206; 270, T Henman 117, 350, N Gould 77; 370, B Cowan 68, 384, M MacLagan 65; 454, C Beecher 48
LEADING WOMEN'S RANKINGS: 1, S Graf (Ger) 441 17pts, 2, A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) 266 38, 3, M Navratilova (US) 212.15, 4, C Martinez (Sp) 193.05, 5, G Sabatini (Arg) 147 67; 6, J Novotna (Cz) 147.10, 7, K Date (Japan) 145 54, 8, M J Fernandez (US) 139 12; 9, M Maleeva-Fragnere (Switz) 114.05, 10, A Huber (Ger) 109 03.

SIMON BARNES 35
WHY THE AMERICANS WOULD LIKE TO MOVE THE GOALPOSTS

SPORT

GOLF 37
TENERIFE BEARS WITNESS TO TALE OF THE UNEXPECTED

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12 1994

Olympics promise more than usual blend of danger and beauty

Warm welcome to Winter Games

FROM DAVID MILLER IN LILLEHAMMER

IT IS minus-15°C here, colder where exposed to Arctic winds. We are close to the razor's edge of Norway's winter, further north than the Winter Olympics have ever been. Yet at night, with the ski jump slopes illuminated on the hill above, this little town of 23,000 is incandescently beautiful.

The Winter Games are a blend of danger and beauty: the spine-chilling hazards of the men's downhill at Kvitfjell tomorrow and the indoor fantasies of figure skating. The occasion brings out the best and worst in people, the more so now that the material rewards of success threaten to supercede the traditional, more intangible glories of Olympic triumph.

We await with macabre, involuntary fascination to see whether Tonya Harding will survive her legal battle to maintain her place in competition here against Nancy Kerrigan, the American rival who survived an attack, allegedly by Harding's ex-husband and accomplices.

There will be a brief pause at the opening ceremony today to mourn the tragedy that has befallen Sarajevo, host city of 1984, but none to remember Ulrike Maier, the Austrian skier and potential medal-winner who died two weeks ago at Garmisch. Some of her contemporaries, such as Kerrin Lee-Gartner, of Canada, the 1992 defending champion, who has been unsure in her grief whether to compete here, remain distraught. Others, the International Ski Federation says, wish to cut out the memory — even onthe following day — and get on with the show.

Such are the levels of so-called sporting commitment. Significantly, Alberto Tomba, who seeks a gold medal here at his third consecutive Olympics, has promised to donate his earnings from three World Cup events to Maier's daughter.

Lillehammer'94

CHARLES PLATIAU



Fredrik Thulin, of Sweden, flies through the air above Lillehammer during practice for the freestyle skiing competition in the Winter Olympics, which start today

Yet apart from the coincidental dramas that have drawn the world's attention to these games, the next fortnight promises to provide some exceptional competition, with even Torvill and Dean temporarily reduced to third place on the starting grid of public interest. The games are exceptional before they even begin because of the achievements of Lillehammer, a provincial farming community backed by a $1 billion Norwegian government subsidy, in producing state-of-the-art facilities.

A. D. Fraser, the executive director of the Atlanta Centenary Games in 1996, has been astounded by Lillehammer's technical professionalism, while Dick Palmer, Britain's vastly-experienced *chef de mission*, considers the Norwegian organisation has surpassed itself in administrative proficiency.

The contrast between Albertville in 1992 and Lillehammer now is compelling and appealing; a fragmented regional event uncomfortably spread across the Savoie compared to an intimate gathering where most competitions are no more than ten minutes apart. The mood is consumingly Norwegian: calm, unostentatious, obliging, proud.

It has been said that if the short, intense northern summer is Norway's glory, in its countless spectacular fjords, then winter is Norway's soul. They embrace winter here like a brother, as proof of their character down the centuries; it is a land where cross-country skiing has been a way of life since the Stone Age, severe and elegiac, as personified in the works of Ibsen, Munch and Greig.

Norway's sportsmen, apart from humiliating England on the football field, tend to be severe exponents of the winter arts, such as Vegard Ulvang, who won three cross-country gold medals at Albertville, and who for recreation has skied across Greenland. His brother, Kjetil, was lost in the dusk on the mountains last year, and Vegard will next week be motivated by his memory.

Norway's unspoken ambition, as spiritual homeland of winter sports, is to exceed the nine gold medals they won in 1992.

Many of the spectators who will flood the town will come by ski over the mountains and will sleep in tents. This nation of 4.3 million lives close to nature, which explains why these Games have set new standards in attention to ecology conservation.

They have, perhaps contradictorily, also set standards in commercial marketing, with record revenues for a Winter Games of $525 million, including the $295 million United States television rights fee paid by CBS. The American network is on to a sure winner, wretchedly on account of Maier's death and the Harding controversy.

The women's figure skating is expected to draw the largest American viewing audience in Olympic history, winter or summer. Money is Harding's motive for retaining her place in the United States team, while the irony is that Kerrigan is assured of a subsequent income of many millions, win or lose.

Despite its massive investment, Lillehammer hopes to clear its costs. "It's clear you don't have to be one of the great countries to host a financially successful games," Dick Pound, the International Olympic Committee finance commission chairman, has said.

Strangely, close association with death seems no impediment to some sports performers. Elizabeth Punsalan will compete in the ice dance despite the recent murder by her 20-year-old brother, Ricardo, of her father Ernesto. And many will find it incomprehensible that a ten-man Bosnian team is emotionally capable of participation.

"An Olympic truth sounds beautiful, but when you are aware of the kind of transgressor, there is no point," Nizar Zacirajic, the Bosnian bobsledder, said on arrival. There are Muslims, Serbs and Croatians in the Bosnian team, including Igor Boras, whose parents live within yards of the market where 68 people were slain last week. His mother's only wish is that he should "stay away".

Rough-edged skater, page 38
Spirit of the Bells, page 38
Games schedule, page 38

Magilton leaves Oxford for Ball and £600,000

BY KEITH PIKE

THE goal that knocked Leeds United out of the FA Cup has also shot Jim Magilton into the FA Carling Premiership. Magilton, who scored Oxford United's extra-time winner at Elland Road on Wednesday, yesterday joined Southampton for a fee of £600,000.

Magilton's volley was witnessed by Alan Ball, Southampton's manager of 23 days, and was enough to convince him to take his spending to nearly £1 million. Four days earlier he had also bought Craig Maskell, the Swindon Town striker, for £250,000.

Magilton, 24, the midfield player who has won 18 caps for Northern Ireland, is likely to make his debut against Liverpool at The Dell on Monday, the transfer having been completed just before yesterday's noon deadline. Magilton started his career at Anfield, and was happy enough to forsake the short-term lure of an FA Cup fifth-round tie against Chelsea for the chance of Premiership football.

"I loved my time at Oxford, but it was a choice between that and playing in the Premier League and I am ambitious," he said. Ball's pedigree as a player had been instrumental in his decision. "I will listen to what he has to tell me and I can only improve as a result," he said.

Oxford, struggling financially and at the wrong end of the first division, said they had little choice but to sell Magilton. "Jim made it clear he did not want to stay at Oxford, and he has repeatedly turned down offers of a new contract," Mick Brown, the secretary, said.

Mark Robins, the Norwich City striker who has not played since damaging knee ligaments on October 19, needs a second operation after breaking down in training and is unlikely to play again this season. Terry Wilson, 25, the Nottingham Forest defender, has been forced to retire because of a knee injury.

☐ Kidderminster Harriers, the GM Vauxhall Conference club, have been given permission to erect a 1,000-seat temporary stand for their FA Cup fifth-round tie against West Ham United next Saturday. It will raise their capacity to 8,000.

Malcolm deprived by slipshod fielding



Malcolm celebrates another wicket on his way to a tally of seven in the innings. Photograph: Graham Morris

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN BARBADOS

FOR a heavyweight fast bowler, Devon Malcolm's manner is mild and his features inscrutable. Yet even he had to hold his head in his hands and adopt a look of pained despair here yesterday as a quite shambolic session of cricket deprived him of career-best figures and undermined England's morale at a sensitive time.

The first Test match starts a week today and only time will tell if England can bat or bowl ably enough to compete. What can be said with certainty, however, is that they will surrender any such ambitions if their fielding betrays them as it did during a bizarre final hour to the Barbados first innings.

Five wickets in consecutive overs with the second new ball had seen Barbados slide from 285 for four to 299 for nine — not enough, on such a good pitch, to have played England out of the game. But the last-wicket pair, Sam Skeete and Dayne Maynard, were then dropped five times as they added 49 in 15 slapstick overs, putting a new complexion on the day and a new, crimson colour on certain English faces.

All the catches were missed off Malcolm as he vainly sought an eighth wicket for the first time in his first-class career. "It was on my mind," he confessed later, "but it was obviously not meant to be. The lads keep saying sorry but I just put it down to fate."

This ineptitude was neither fleeting nor out of character. England looked to have chosen an outstanding fielding side for this tour but the evidence thus far has not supported it. I counted nine catchable chances missed in the Barbados innings; Keith Fletcher, the team manager, was harsher and made it 12. "Let's hope we have got them all out of our system in one go," he said.

For those not directly involved, there was a degree of comedy involved. Aside from Malcolm himself, the first player England must seek to hide in the field is Angus Fraser. Lovely chap, splendid bowler but not blessed with sleight of foot or sharpness of eye. Now, in one of those uncanny passages of play that this game so often concocts, the ball followed him everywhere.

Three times, he was shifted by his captain, Michael Atherton, to what was thought a safer zone. Each time, the ball pursued him. Atherton had no sooner moved him to long-on when a steepling drive picked him out and he dropped it. Transferred back to long-off, he put down another skyer.

Nobody in the side has a more expressive hangdog look than Fraser and now, covered in dust, mud and embarrassment, he cut a sorry figure. The irony is, that when Atherton was obliged to make a change, it was Fraser who took the final wicket in his first over of the day.

Malcolm, then, was left with the curious analysis of seven for 134 from 26 overs. Sympathy for the fielding follies must be tempered with realism for, as Fletcher pointed out, he will often bowl better and take fewer wickets.

There were too many balls from Malcolm that begged to be hit for four but this will always be the price to pay for his wickets. Of greater concern to England will be the relatively innocuous efforts of both Igglesden and Fraser. Igglesden did strike once in the early overs, taking the ninth wicket thanks to a simple catch at cover by Tufnell, but neither looked in the form to play a Test match in a week's time.

Indeed, as Fletcher readily confirmed, the only "exceptional" bowling of the innings was Tufnell's persevering and unrewarded spin.

England's grievously delayed reply began with none of the uncertainty which had dogged them in the field. Alec Stewart, in particular, batted with pleasing fluency as the established opening pair, potentially one of England's greatest assets, negotiated the efforts of four Barbados fast bowlers and reached 58, at four runs an over, by tea.

N Zealand rooted, page 34

BARBADOS: First Innings

D L Haynes c Thorpe b Malcolm	6
P A Wallace c Ramprakash b Malcolm	57
S G Campbell b Malcolm	83
*R I C Holder lbw b Malcolm	85
L C Puckerin c Smith b Malcolm	6
†C O Browne c Thorpe b Igglesden	41
V C Drakes c Russell b Malcolm	2
O D Gibson b Malcolm	3
W E Reid c Tufnell b Igglesden	3
S M Skeete c Russell b Fraser	34
D M Maynard not out	17
Extras (lb 1, nb 10)	11
Total	348

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14 2-98, 3-179, 4-187, 5-286, 6-289, 7-292, 8-295, 9-299.

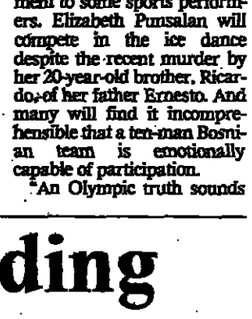
BOWLING: Malcolm 26-1-134-7; Igglesden 20-4-71-2; Fraser 19-4-62-1; Tufnell 31-9-82-0; Hick 8-1-18-0.

ENGLAND XI: First Innings

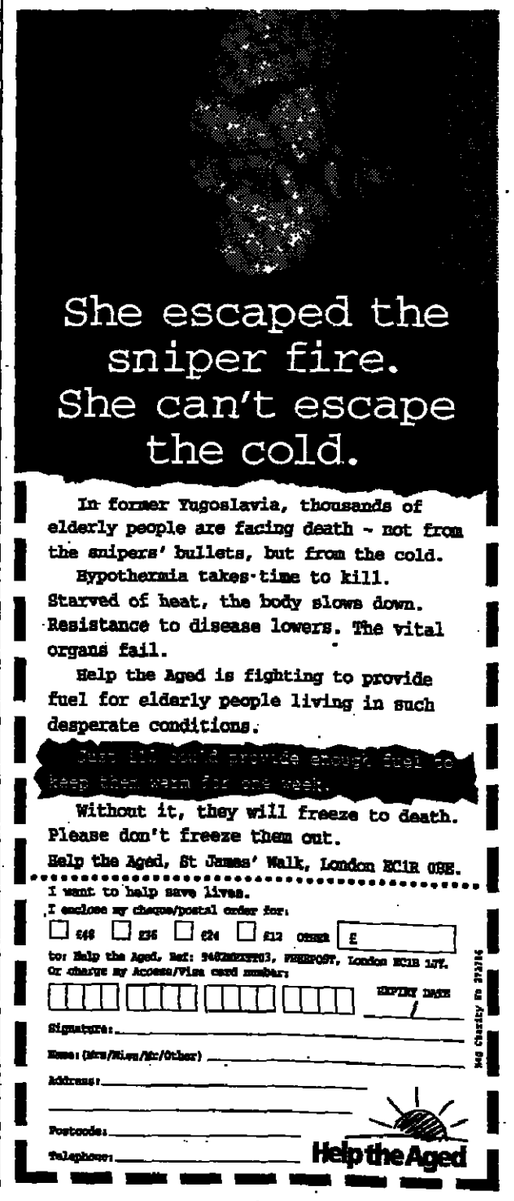
*M A Atherton not out	29
A J Stewart not out	40
Extras	5
Total (no wkt)	74

M R Ramprakash, R A Smith, G A Hick, G P Thorpe, †R C Russell, A R C Fraser, A P Igglesden, P C R Tufnell and D E Malcolm to bat.

Umpires: H Moore and B Holder.



Have you ever wanted to pick the England cricket team? Play *The Times* 1st XI game today on page 34.





FOOD OF LOVE

Sensuous fare for St Valentine's Day

Hattie Ellis, page 4



KIT HESKETH HARVEY

The greatest show in town

Soho celebration, page 9



PAUL HEINEY

The animals are revolting

Is it a plot? page 18

LAST WEEK OF OUR FREE CD OFFER

Page 11

WEEKEND

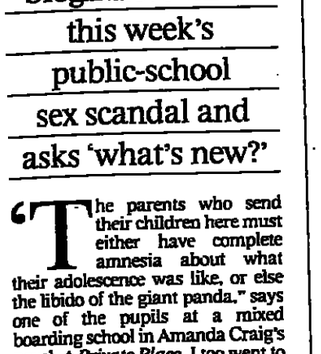
THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12 1994

Sex rules at public schools

Mary Ann Sieghart looks at this week's public-school sex scandal and asks 'what's new?'

"The parents who send their children here must either have complete amnesia about what their adolescence was like, or else the libido of the giant panda," says one of the pupils at a mixed boarding school in Amanda Craig's novel, *A Private Place*. I too went to a co-ed boarding school, which is why I read news stories, such as the recent one about sixth-formers being caught in bed together at Charterhouse, with a shrug. What do parents expect if they send their teenage sons and daughters to be cooped up together? Those of us who went through it could tell them a story or two.

Amanda Craig and I were at Bedales together in the 1970s; by now, I expect, the school has changed. Knotshead, the fictional progressive school in her novel, is based not so much loosely as chillingly tightly on our school then. The main character becomes pregnant and has a miscarriage, but the tales that made me go hot and cold as I read them, recognising some of the characters and events involved, were those of sexual intimidation, verbal abuse



Mary Ann Sieghart, aged 16

and bullying. The girls who ended up having a cosy sexual relationship with a loving boyfriend were the lucky ones.

Amanda reckons that at Bedales in our day the sexually experienced amounted to no more than about ten out of 50 boys and girls in each year. But of those ten, perhaps half had lost their virginity by the age of 13. If a girl was ugly and sexually active, she would be called a slag to her face. If she was pretty and popular (the two inevitably went together), she would simply be thought rather daring.

Most went in for serial monogamy rather than rampant promiscuity. The pressure to have a boyfriend at that time was incredibly strong. Because Bedales had equal numbers of boys and girls, it differed from schools where girls only arrived in the sixth form. Girls at such schools were far outnumbered, and were seen as rather exotic creatures. At Bedales, if you could not attract a boyfriend you were deemed a social "reject" by the boys, who determined the school's hierarchy. And once you were a reject, no boy would want to go out with you anyway.

But if physical desirability was the main criterion for popularity, then intelligence, wit or feistiness in girls tended to be disqualifications. Amanda's fate was determined in her first week, when she was jumped on, in the dark, by three boys and told that another boy wanted to "go with" her. "It was quite clear what they meant," she remembers. "I was so cross that I punched one into a holly bush and ran away. That instantly made me into a reject." The label, once won, was almost impossible to lose.

At Bedales, having sex was an expellable offence. As at all boarding schools in the countryside, pupils who wanted to sleep with each other tended to head for the great outdoors, usually for a nearby sand quarry. But ranged against them were two particular teachers who went out of their way to catch them.

One would patrol the grounds of the school at night with a torch and a dog. I remember once being caught by his flashlight, out at night with a friend on an innocent prank, and pretending to be bushes. He spotted us, but we had a head start and ran away. His female counterpart slept in a room near the only ground-floor window of the girls' house that was not barred. She was always said to leave booby traps such as a broomstick on the wooden stairs leading down to that window.

The means of escape seems to have become easier over the years. Illona Dixon, now 23, claims that at Stowe, "there were a thousand ways in and out of our house". And while Bedales then had dormitories for everyone, Stowe had study bedrooms, affording greater opportunities for comfortable rather than freezing sex. She tells the story of a friend who spent the night in her boyfriend's study, overslept, but hid under the covers the next morning while his housemaster chatted away to him.

Some girls at Stowe were apparently on the Pill during Illona's time, but she says that she remembers two friends who became pregnant and had miscarriages. No teachers ever found out, of course, or any doctor. At Bedales girls were worried about asking the doctor to put them on the Pill because they did not know if he would have to report them to the school authorities. Some male teachers quite obviously had crushes on girls (and occasionally boys), but I never knew whether they were consummated.

My experiences may not have been typical, but there were many other girls who suffered at the hands of boys and never dared tell the teachers. When one boy in the year above, who had been tormenting me relentlessly, eventually threatened to rape me, I plucked up the courage to tell a female friend of his. She asked him to lay off me, which he did. Verbal abuse was commonplace: every time we walked across the quad, we had to run the gauntlet of groups of menacing boys lolling against the pillars and insulting us. Some of these were no innocent-looking schoolboys, but 17 or 18-year-olds who looked like grown men.

At Stowe, Illona Dixon eventually decided she could not face eating school meals because, after picking up her food, she had to walk past table after table of jeering, taunting boys. They used to shout "No pubes! No pubes!" as she passed: the ultimate insult. "I was in tears about every other day," she remembers. "I was writing the most pathetic diary. I can't read it any more because it's so sad."

Amanda Craig thinks that "it was a way of trying to cope with the fact that the girls were miles more articulate and mature and self-possessed, and the boys had to get rid of the girls' self-possession. If you didn't act with enough deference to the boys, you were in trouble."

Listening to a friend who went to a girls-only London day school was a revelation. The girls made friends with the boys at the next-door school, but there was no pressure to be particularly pretty or desirable. Sex went on, in a fairly mature way: girls frequented the local family-planning clinic. The temperature only rose, she recalls, during the holidays, when boys from boarding schools would descend on teenage parties.

"We were rather boring and grown-up," she concludes. Well, I just hope that my daughters, still very young, are boring and grown-up at 16. Unless they turn out to have that rare combination of stunning looks and hides as tough as oxen. I shall think very hard before sending them to a mixed boarding school. I could not subject someone I loved to the possibility of that pressure at the most sensitive period of their life.



'A dozen of that one, please.'



'Life will be just a hollow mockery without you, Drusilla.'

Drawings by Ronald Searle from The Curse of St Trinian's — The Best of the Drawings, *published by Pavilion, price £6.99*

THE OFFICIAL LINE TODAY

TWO pupils, a boy and girl, were recently asked to leave Charterhouse, the public school, after being found in a sexually compromising situation. In Britain's co-educational independent schools, the rule today seems to be universal: sex equals sacking. Here are views from some of the leading schools.

CHARTERHOUSE
Peter Hobson, headmaster, explained that the boy and girl had left but were not technically expelled. "They were found places at other schools. They will be able to take their A levels and they will be able to call themselves Old Carthusians.

"This is a rare problem. At Charterhouse we have had a co-educational sixth form for 20 years, and there have been very few difficulties. Our rules are fair but firm. Boys and girls are trusted to visit each other in their studies, with staff supervision, but they understand that if they are found in a compromising situation, they cannot remain at the school."

MILLFIELD
David Rosser, the deputy headmaster, explained that the boys and girls were taught together, sporting activities were separate and boys and girls lived in separate houses.

"We get very few problems," he said, "but pupils understand that if they are found in a sexual situation, the result will be expulsion. The last time anything like this happened here was more than ten years ago."

KING'S SCHOOL, CANTERBURY
This ancient school has been co-educational since 1990. The headmaster, Canon A. C. J. Phillips, said: "Boys and girls here understand that they are likely to be expelled for any serious breach of the rules."

GORDONSTOUN
James Thomas, head of external affairs, said: "There are two things to consider: the need to maintain the rules and good order of the school, and the need not to blight the academic careers of the people involved.

"This is not a problem that arises often here: the last case I can recall was three years ago. The pupils who had overstepped the mark were found places at other schools. And we would always be prepared to let them sit their A levels here."

BRYANSTON
Tom Wheare, headmaster of Bryanston, which has four girls' houses, explained that if a boy and girl were discovered having sexual intercourse and the case was 100 per cent proved, they would always be asked to leave.

"It is made clear to them when they come here," he said, "and it is made clear to the parents if they ask, which they sometimes do. It is not something which happens often — I think three times in the past ten years.

"I see asking them to go as cancelling our contract with them, but of course one doesn't cancel pastoral or personal care. We have always been able to find places at other schools, and if A levels are coming up, we can arrange for them to be taken here or at some more convenient centre."

STOWE
Jeremy Nichols, headmaster of Stowe, which takes girls for A level courses, said that, pupils caught in compromising sexual situations would always be asked to leave, although they would be treated sympathetically. Stowe, he added, had been able to accommodate pupils who had left other schools because of this problem.

THE MASTER of Marlborough, one of the first major boys' public schools to take in girls, was unavailable for comment. The headmaster of Bedales said through his secretary that he had no comment to make.

FRANK JEFFERY



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A Brittany tour for working parents

HERE is a simple rule for happy family holidays with young children: before the holiday gets underway make sure you, the parents, are rested and they, the children, are exhausted and ready for long sleeps in the car.

If, like me, you and your spouse work full time, there are three options:

1 Hire a temporary nanny for the holiday (the full-time nanny has to take her holiday when you take yours) at minimum of £35 a day on top of agency fees (up to £200) plus the cost of taking an extra adult on holiday which, in our case, would have been at least £300 for the ten days. This makes a total of at least £850. Taking a nanny also gives little private family time.

2 Ask grandparents or friends to tire out the children for a weekend before you leave. The downside of this is that working parents see even less of their children.

3 Book one night at a good hotel where the children will be entertained, and you will be waited on hand and foot. This is expensive (for instance, one night's half board for two adults and two children sharing a family apartment in a Brittany Relais & Châteaux hotel comes to about £270 in high season) but not as expensive as option 1.

A *gîte* makes a good base for exploring coast and countryside

We (me, husband, and children — Rose, three, and Miranda, two) tested the hotel option at the Château de Locguenole, near Hennebont, on the south coast of Brittany. The mellow stone château stands at the top of a steep sweep of lawn leading down to an estuary. Pure Daphne du Maurier and, better still, equipped with an outdoor swimming pool, where our children swam all afternoon, thereby exhausting themselves, while we took it in turns to float near them, thereby relaxing ourselves.

From that gentle start to our holiday we went to our *gîte* — not so much a honeysuckle-smothered idyll as a modern house with decor in keeping with the feel of the exterior: rather Boots art. But it was a practical house; warm, clean, and well-equipped, with a washing machine and dishwasher.

It was well placed, too, beside a quiet road about 15 minutes' drive from the port of Concarneau. The small peninsula east of Concarneau, which juts out to sea and then back to Pont-Aven, is a glorious mixture of turquoise water, rock pools packed with starfish, tiny crabs and fishes and hermit crabs, a tideline dotted with pink cowrie shells, and sand dunes with interesting thistles and euphorbias.

From a distance, the near-empty beaches (and this was August) looked promising. Unfortunately, grit and stones made them uncomfortable, especially to bare feet.

Rose and Miranda were keen to build sandcastles, so we drove 50 miles to the small seaside town of Pentrez, where the soft, golden sand stretches for a couple of miles. The paddling is good — 20 yards out and Rose was only waist deep.

In this area there are camp sites, attractive Breton churches with their knobbly spires and many gargoyles (always good for the Who Does That Look Like? game), and in Pentrez a market selling local produce from jams to artichokes and fresh fish.

The road from our *gîte* led past a picture-book castle, Château de Keriolet. It was fairy-tale Gothic, a trumpeting angel doing his bit next to the fish-scale tiled turrets while, high above some of the extravagantly ornate chimneys, flagpoles were decorated with coronets. Carved relief starfish and shells dotted the granite walls. Rose and Miranda, who were in their princess phase, were enchanted.

"Does a real princess live here?"

"Well, once she did but now she's dead."

"When will she wake up?"

The story of the castle is romantic. The Russian Princess Zenaide Narichkine (aunt of Tsar Nicholas II) fell in love with Brittany, and with a local toyboy of limited means who, on marriage, invented a noble history for himself. The princess — related to the man said to have killed Rasputin — outlived her husband and died just over 100 years ago, leaving behind the castle she and her husband had built.

We left our *gîte* a day early and avoided a 4am start on the final day by driving to within easy striking distance of the port of St Malo. Sables D'Or des Pins, a town one hour's drive west of St Malo, has a children's playground, ice-cream parlours, sandy beach and restaurants — ideal for last-minute treats.

The holiday continued on board the return ferry. Captain Colin and His Crew hoisted the Jolly Roger in the playroom and started a children's party. Magic tricks, balloons, songs, a glove puppet doggy and dreadful jokes held 60 children spellbound, while holiday-weary parents slumped in the tea shop.

JANE OWEN

● *Jane Owen was a guest of Meon Villa Holidays (0730 266561), French Expressions, which arranges tailor-made holidays in France (071-794 1480) and Brittany Ferries (0705 827701).*



The Château de Keriolet, near Concarneau, has a romantic past

Stretch out on Kenya's coral strand

After exploring all the wildlife on safari, you can relax and enjoy the good life at a beachside lodge

Environmental correctness is the thing in Kenya, and you will not escape it on the beaches. You will have read the code of conduct, courtesy of the Friends of Conservation, and noted that you must not touch the coral, kick sand at the coral (it suffocates the polyps), buy mounted fish or collect shells (you may deprive a hermit crab of its next home).

In the game parks the code of conduct may soon extend to a smoking ban. After an incident with a leopard in the Masai Mara last December — a tourist's discarded cigarette set fire to a bush above which a leopard was reclining in a tree — it has been suggested that the wide open spaces are no longer the place for cigarettes. Maybe there will now be a new warning on local cigarette packets, "Tobacco seriously damages wildlife".

Most visitors to Kenya go to the beach as "a perfect retreat in which to relax after your safari", but to sell the beaches as an add-on to the game reserves is to sell them short. At Malindi, 60 miles north of Mombasa, and further northwards, are a scattering of Indian Ocean lodges — small, privately owned hotels — that offer good but relaxed service, excellent food and comfortable accommodation in surroundings of extraordinary beauty.

The Indian Ocean Lodge, near Casuarina Point in Malindi, stands in a four-acre walled garden on a coral promontory overlooking a sweeping bay. The big, white, flat-roofed house was built 14½ years ago by Bunny Allen, a former white hunter, in the Lamu Arab style (Lamu is an island just off the coast, 80 miles to the north) and caters to a maximum of ten guests, housed in five palé, cool, double bedrooms, each with a four-poster bed with mosquito nets, fans, large bathroom and a sunny balcony.

There is a secluded swimming pool and, below the house, reached by steep steps, a small beach (at low tide). The lodge's boat can be used to take guests fishing or to the reef at Malindi Marine National Park for snorkelling.

The lodge's owners, Peter and Joanna Nicholas, who farmed in Kenya for many years before buying the house, give their tariff, inclusive of full board, drinks and a daily laundry service, as $500 (£333) per double room per day ($350/£233 per single), plus a staff gratuity of just over £3 per guest per day. But booking through a British travel company, out of high season, can lower the price considerably.

Also near Malindi, a mile from the sea, is Kingfisher Lodge, four double-bedded cottages, a bar and a dining-room grouped around a swimming pool and set in gardens surrounded by farmland. Like most lodges, this is a family-run business. Its owners, Catharina and Herbie Paul, also offer safaris based at their own tented camp in Tsavo East National Park, as well as fishing, water sports and bird-watching. The lodge's excellent cook is Mrs Paul's sister.

Further to the north, the Italian Brighetti family owns and runs the Blue Safari Club on 50 acres of Manda, a small, low island next to Lamu. The club consists of 14 on-the-beach bandas — sophisticated palm cottages, each with a double bedroom, bathroom and veranda — and a palm-roofed dining-room, bar and sitting-room. You arrive by boat from the small airstrip at the other end of the island: the fish trap is to the right, the bandas to the left, and Bruno Brighetti is there to greet you on the white sand that slopes gently up to the palms and the communal rooms.

Signor Brighetti employs 36 local staff to cater to his maximum of 28 guests (usually only ten bandas are occupied). He is extremely proud of his famous visitors — the Duke and Duchess of Westminster and the Heseltines are mentioned often — and he mourns his infamous ones. Recently he has lost several of his Italian regulars to prison or comparative poverty. But Italian connections still remain: Signor Brighetti's chefs have been introduced to Italian cooking and he flies in the "big five" — pasta, olive oil, Parmesan, olives and capers — from Italy. His wine is from South Africa, his meat and vegetables from his farm in Naivasha, northwest of Nairobi, his fish from the fish trap and his fruit from Lamu. Those who try the windsurfing, canoeing, water skiing, scuba diving, snorkeling fishing and sailing can manage the three meals a day.

Signor Brighetti gives his tariff as $500 (£333) a day, inclusive of full board and all water sports, but again the price can be lower if booked in Britain. If you can gather seven friends, you can enjoy the Blue Safari Club for $100 (£66) per person a day: for this you will have four of the double cottages, your own kitchen and dining-room, a chef, a chambermaid and a boat.

You can bring your own food and drink or the Brighettis can get it in for you. The only time of the year when this option is not on offer is Christmas, when the owners fill these cottages with friends.

Kipungani Sea Breezes, on the southwest coast of Lamu, is a similar camp. Here 12 cottages are set above a beach; the boat on which visitors arrive comes in to a jetty at the end of which is a "sunset room", furnished only with enormous, cushioned Lamu sofas. Prices include all food as well as skin diving, creek fishing and windsurfing; children under ten are accommodated free when sharing their parents' room.

Kiwayu Safari Lodge, 20 cottages on a beach 35 miles north of Lamu, is also said to be beautiful and comfortable.

BRIGID CALLAGHAN



The Blue Safari Club, in 50 acres on the island of Manda, next to Lamu, has been a holiday choice for the Duke and Duchess of Westminster

Travel facts

HOW TO GET THERE

☐ Brigid Callaghan travelled to Kenya with Abercrombie & Kent, Sloane Square House, Holbein Place, London SW1W 8NS (071-730 9600), which can arrange holidays at the Indian Ocean lodges of Kenya and on the islands of the Indian Ocean.

☐ British Airways flights leave Heathrow for Nairobi every day except Thursday: economy return, £898; Club return, £1,900. For BA fares and advance travel enquiries, telephone 081-897 4000. Air Kenya offers flights from Nairobi's Wilson airport to Manda island and from Jomo Kenyatta airport to Malindi.

WHAT IT COSTS

☐ All lodges mentioned are available through Abercrombie & Kent and are featured in its "World of Abercrombie & Kent" brochure (requests: 071-730 7795), except Kipungani Sea Breezes — details on request.

☐ Seven nights, inclusive of flights from London and full board, cost from £1,890 per person at the Blue Safari Club, from £1,685 at the Indian Ocean Lodge, from £1,895 at Kipungani Sea Breezes, from £1,114 at Kingfisher Lodge and from £1,795 at Kiwayu Safari Lodge. Abercrombie & Kent can also arrange stays at Peponi Inn on Lamu, a small informal hotel, from £1,649 per person seven nights. Enquiries about the Blue Safari's lower rates for self-catering parties should be directed to PO Box 41759, Nairobi, Kenya (010 254 2 338838; fax: 010 254 2 216993).

☐ Abercrombie & Kent's "Destinations Worldwide" brochure offers some less expensive holidays that include hotels on the coast. The Indian Ocean Beach Club, a new hotel on Diani beach, south of Mombasa, is offered in the "Destinations" brochure as part of a safari package and in the "World of" brochure as a separate destination (from £761 per person for seven nights bed and breakfast).

WHEN TO GO

☐ September to November can be a good time for a beach visit, with good weather and lower than high-season (December) prices. April, May and June offer the lowest prices, as this is the rainy season. There can also be short rains in November. Prices rise in December to March, which is normally hot and dry (temperatures can be above 90F on the coast in March). June to August are the coolest months, although it can still be in the 70-80s on the coast.

Hotel bonus in India

GOOD news for big spenders: in conjunction with Lufthansa, Oberoi Hotels, one of India's leading hotel groups, has launched Oberoi Plus, in which points are awarded to guests, based on how much they spend in their hotels. These can be redeemed for rewards ranging from canteens of silver cutlery to flights on Lufthansa.

Oberoi Hotels, my hosts on a nine-day tour of India, which was reported in *Weekend* last week, has also announced plans for two additions to its range of 14 hotels, in Madras and in Agra, home of the Taj Mahal, to open in 1996.

Because India is becoming an increasingly popular holiday destination, the group has formed a separate venture with the French hotel group Accor to build and manage ten first-class Novotels there. The first, in Agra, is open. Next in line are Udaipur, Jaipur and New Delhi.

ANDREW PIERCE

● *For more information, contact the Oberoi Sales Office on 081-788 3060. British Airways (081-897 4000; 0345 222111), which flew me to India, also has a wide range of services.*

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Calypso fun with a barb in the tale

This weekend the bands are playing and the masqueraders swaying in the streets of Trinidad. It's carnival time

MICHAEL NICHOLS / MAGNUM



Costumed revellers pack the streets in Port of Spain

Carnivals in the Caribbean islands can be huge, colourful, exotic affairs that stretch the imagination. Yesterday in Trinidad began *five days of non-stop fêtes* (parties) and calypso and steelband competitions, that will culminate in a costumed masquerade on Monday and Tuesday through the streets of the capital, Port of Spain.

As people in cold, damp Britain whip up the traditional pancake mix on Tuesday, the Trinidadian revellers will be setting out for a final day's frolic in the tropical sun.

Apart from the rum, the thing that keeps the islanders "bumping, jamming, wining and grinding" is calypso.

Calypso is more than just music for singing and dancing: an evening in a "calypso tent" will give you a crash course in Trinidadian politics and plug you into island gossip. This year, many of the calypso singers are taking the government (and fellow Trinidadians) to task over crime. Others are singing on lighter topics: one calypsonian pokes yet more fun at Michael Jackson with an offering called "Free Willy". But whatever the topic, calypso's main function is to entertain.

Calypsonians come from various backgrounds and from across Trinidad and its sister island Tobago's diverse racial heritage. The names they perform under are all part of the entertainment: The Mighty Chalkdust is a school teacher, and Watchman is a policeman; Black Stalin is strong on social comment. But who knows how Red Plastic Bag's name came about?

Calypsonians' comments on public figures can be scurrilous, but, in Trinidad, there is a special word for insult set to rhyme, "Picong". A picong is delivered, and usually received, with good humour. At times, the calypsonians will spar with each other in song.

The two most successful and respected veterans of calypso are the Mighty Sparrow and Lord Kitchener: they have been winning competitions for nearly 40 years. Recently, Sparrow rounded on Kitch for refusing the nation's second highest honour (on the grounds that it should have been the top honour) and has built his mockery in song.

Another source of wit in calypso is the *double entendre*: you just have to skate over the vowels of last year's calypso, "She Want Happiness", to hear a different meaning.

The smut can get deeply vulgar and, despite its popularity, is causing an uproar this year. It is not as subtle as it used to be and can be an easy crowd-puller in a fiercely competitive arena, so a few calypsonians have come out against it. Some calypsos have even been released in what's known as an "Elcock Mix" (after a moralising disc jockey), with a clean version for air-play on the radio.

There are two main titles in the calypso competition. The most coveted, the Calypso Monarch, will be decided tomorrow evening. Nine finalists will compete against Chalkdust, singing two songs each in front of a crowd of 30,000. The artistes will use all their stage presence to turn their songs into performances that will have the audience screaming for encore after encore — in which they will develop their theme further, to even louder applause.

On Monday it is the turn of the dance tunes in the Roadmarch competition. The masqueraders spill on to the streets at 4am and dance until Tuesday night, shuffling and strutting in their thousands. (A carnival "band" can have as many as 2,000 players dressed to a common theme.)

The revellers advance and retreat in choreographed lines, or they simply "jam and wine", attached by their middle section (midriff to mid-thigh), gyrating against one another in positions that could be described as the physical expression of smut.

The dance tunes for the Roadmarch tend to be simpler and faster than those for the Calypso Monarch, and there is usually a theme, in which the dancers will jump up and wave, or brandish a flag. The winner of the Roadmarch title will be the calypsonian whose song is played most as the bands pass the judges.

And they have to be good to keep nearly half a million people dancing non-stop for five days.

JAMES HENDERSON

● *Schedule and charter flights to Trinidad can be arranged through the Reunion Club, Caribbean flight specialist on 071-344 0101 (membership £5).*

RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE



No longer strangers on a train — Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard in *Brief Encounter*

Flirty ways to find a lover

When you want to meet a mate, haunt his favourite habitats

Any single woman of a certain age and open to the idea of romantic attachment sooner or later wonders how on earth it can come about. The world is full of nice men, but when the spare males that kind friends roll out for dinner parties have all been met, when no colleague has struck the romantic spark, and when the sociable parties of youth have faded away, how can we meet them? And not just any nice man, of course, but the one that is right for the idiosyncratic and specific person that the woman of a certain age has become?

"The sad thing is that we are not instantly recognisable to each other," says Virginia Sweetingham, who runs the introduction agency Virginia Charles. "There are a hell of a lot of lonely people out there, but they don't wear a badge saying 'I'm available'."

In fact, there is a badge we could wear — the Irish Claddagh ring, two hands, a heart and a crown. When worn with the heart pointing in it signifies attachment; with the heart pointing out, it signifies availability. Perhaps it should be encouraged.

What has happened instead is that locations have emerged as accepted places for eyeing up the eligible. It used to be supermarkets: the social Safeway of Armistead Maupin's San Francisco. Now it is auction rooms, libraries, children's playgrounds.

"Monday afternoons here are very sociable," says Catherine Higgins, of Christie's South Kensington. "Many young men pop in: they take an hour off or come in after work. We have furniture and carpet viewings, and wine tastings, which are very popular. I meet lots of my friends there. There's plenty of opportunity to ask people's advice and engage in friendly conversation."

Across the room from the wine tasting, there is a viewing of textiles and clothing: toile de Jouy curtains, 1960s plastic macs. The wine tasters are almost universally male; the admirers of the toiles de Jouy, female. This has something of the early stages of a school dance. At the auction itself, a man with a crash helmet and cheekbones like Lee van Cleef's bids a small fortune for some cigars. How useful to have these clues to character laid out so clearly.

In the furniture-viewing section, among the candlesticks, armoires, and French 19th-century *bateaux-lits*, a young woman drops her catalogue. A gentleman in a good overcoat picks it up and hands it back to her. Their eyes meet across a walnut chaise longue. But love is not to be: she thanks him and moves on.

There is no reason why any location cannot become the cradle of true love. Art galleries are almost notorious, and even churches not exempt. A friend met her first boyfriend in front of the Cellini frescoes in the Medici Chapel in Florence, and in the days when women were not allowed into Italian churches with bare arms, boys used to wait to offer their jackets to insufficiently-clad tourist girls.

Cafés are useful because you can narrow down the field. For example, on Moscow Road in west London, after the Sunday morning service at the Greek Cathedral, the Greek men stop in at the Athenian Grocery Store to buy halva and melons, and then go on to one of the Greek cafés to drink coffee and read the papers. So if a Greek with a traditional outlook, a taste for relaxed weekends and an interest in current affairs appeals, there you go.

An item indicating your true yet invisible nature (a Waylon Jennings tape, an embroidery frame, a book on pig farming) left on the table will send out subtle messages to reveal who you are, for he may have an eye out for you and you want to recognise each other.

Children's playgrounds make excellent "acceptable hunting grounds", as Ms Sweetingham calls them. On weekend afternoons they are replete with divorced, single and separated parents and the children break the ice for you.

Inevitably, the problem is that a man who approaches a woman in a public place is not usually the man of our dreams. Regularity is the key: after two people have seen each other half a dozen times, it is perfectly proper to nod, and after another half dozen to say "good afternoon". In the regular downpours that wash through our parks, it is not unusual to see couples who were hitherto strangers helping each other with their pushchairs as they rush to the tea room, where they can offer one another a cup of tea and clear the way to polite conversation and potential true love.

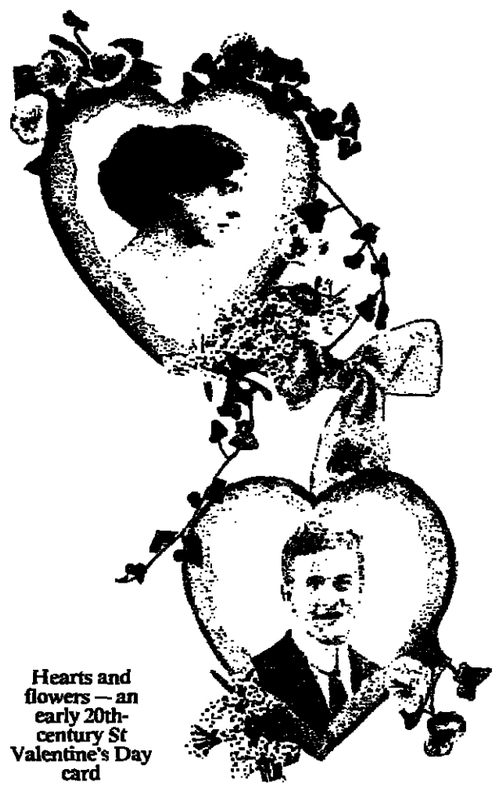
But the best place is a train. As commuters, you have regular exposure to each other, and myriad possibilities to condole over the weather, crowds, the timetable or the graffiti on platform seven.

On the 19.35 Preston to Euston last Thursday, I witnessed an encounter between John, a young geologist working at Sellafield, and Magda, a photographer. Conversation was provoked by three girls from Liverpool, one of whom was about to get married: their conversation was so loud and amusing that comment on it was unavoidable. John's single status, his life story and the comparative merits of various kinds of Leica got us from Preston to Wigan: Wigan to Welwyn Garden City was taken up with environmental topics and his job prospects: should he go for the job in Malaysia or the one in Tanzania? Magda gave him excellent advice: "Do what you really want."

"Love", John said, referring to the Liverpudlians, "would be so inconvenient." But if he went to Tanzania he would get a trip home every eight weeks. On the platform at Euston he was wondering where he could write to Magda.

LOUISA YOUNG

● *Details of viewing and auctions at Christie's South Kensington on 071-581 7611; Virginia Charles, 0993 840888; and* The Times Rendezvous *in this section carries personal lonely-hearts advertisements every Saturday.*



Hearts and flowers — an early 20th-century St Valentine's Day card

What the papers said: **Derwent May**'s bookbuyers' guide

5/5 Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet newspapers.



3/5 Weldon's war: Fay Weldon's new novel *Affliction* (HarperCollins £12.99) is about a couple who have been living happily together for ten years and are about to have their first child, when the man, Spicer, falls prey to two mad psychotherapists and turns horribly against the woman, Annette.

In *The Sunday Express*, Joan Bakewell took the book lightly: it was "set on the chattering slopes of Hampstead and told with Fay Weldon's usual brio ... a lovely journey through a bruising relationship that ends happily." Other reviewers were more deeply affected by Annette's sufferings. "Weldon's tart humour," said Jonathan Coe in *The Sunday Times*, "becomes the vehicle for an uncompromisingly bleak portrayal of male shortcomings." "What is most remarkable here", wrote Penelope Mortimer in *The Daily Telegraph*, "is the white-hot rage behind all the talk, an intensity of anger I have not found in Weldon's previous work."



But not all the critics were so impressed. "Fay Weldon has an important point to make about the bitter power of therapy to thrive on the differences between couples", said Laura Cumming in *The Guardian*, "but in no time her appetite for the grotesque overwhelms the subtle horror of her message." For Jackie Wullschlager in *The Financial Times*, on the other hand, "the sex war here lacks the comic energy which inspired books like her novel, *The She-Devil*".

Max Davidson, in *The Sunday Telegraph*, was altogether dismissive. "The novelty of the staccato style rapidly palls and the book is soon puffing uphill like an out-of-condition jogger," he declared. As for the satire on the therapists, that was just a display of Weldon's "crude prejudices". You pays your therapist and you takes your choice.
Col cms: 243

2/5 Crosland crashes: Susan Crosland has been more consistently roughed up so far for her novel *The Magnates* (Orion £16.99). This is a story of the rivalry — financial and sexual — between two press magnates in America, the WASPish Miles Brewster and the rough-and-ready Englishman Lord Scrope, with a big supporting cast of journalists, diplomats and politicians.

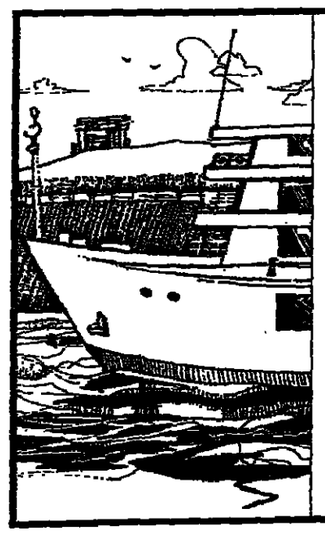
In *The Sunday Telegraph*, David Robson criticised the "mechanical smoothness" of the book. "The characters have affairs and swap partners as frequently as the genre demands", he said, "but you wonder why they bother: nothing ever really seems to turn them on."

However, Robson thought that Crosland "knows the world she is writing about". That was precisely what other reviewers did not think. "Goodness!" cried William Deedes in *The Daily Telegraph*, "can this be the world which has paid me a living wage for half a century or so? I seem to have missed the fun. When did they all find time to get the work done? When were the leaders delivered? Presumably by telephone from someone else's bed."

Lynn Barber in *The Sunday Times* did not even find any "good *roman-à-clef* tittle-tattle about journos of our time" in the book. She said *The Guardian* had got "wildly excited" about the idea that the British ambassador in the novel was based on Peter Jay, but as the character hardly existed beyond a bare outline, "I don't think libel suits are in order". As for the sex, "it hardly ever happens ... Crosland is really far too nice to write for the sex 'n' shopping market."
Col cms: 119

2/5 Pitt-Kethley panned: Fiona Pitt-Kethley, the poet with sex in every stanza, went on a ramble through Italy, Greece and neighbouring lands, looking out for signs of Pan and having all the male passers-by she fancied.

Her narrative of the journey, *The Pan Principle* (Sinclair-Stevenson £17.99), was denounced by Peter Jones in *The Sunday Telegraph* as "atrociously written, uninformative, sleazy and ignorant ... Of wit, imagination, *joie de vivre* I made no sighting". In *The Times*, Philip Howard was more indulgent: even if "she washes her not-so-private parts in the Pierian spring," he wrote, "this is a book of amazing adventures around the dimmer parts of Greece ... full of romance and foolhardiness and naive wisdom". However, in *The Sunday Express* Andrea Newman confessed "I wish I'd enjoyed it more than I did ... It could have been entitled *Travels with a Condom*."
Column cms: 76



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RESTAURANT WATCH

Latest news on eating out

ENGLISH CLASS
Hudson's
239 Baker Street, London NW1 (071-935 3130)
The joint head chefs, Andrew Bailey and Mark Srapley, each attained two AA rosettes at their previous restaurants (the English House, Chelsea, and Veronica's, Bayswater). Hudson's, whose decor replicates a Victorian dining-room, emphasises traditional English dishes such as bubble & squeak (£4.95) and fish pie (£8.75). Lunches £9.50 for two courses, £12 for three (£13.50 and £16.50 on Sundays). Open seven days a week, for elevenses 10am to noon, lunch noon to 2.30pm (3pm Sundays), afternoon treats 3pm to 6pm, and dinner 6pm to 10.30pm (7pm to 10pm Sundays). General manager Anthony Ryan was formerly at Smith's, Covent Garden.

SOFRA SO GOOD
Sofra Restaurant and Café
18 Shepherd Street and 10 Shepherd's Market, London W1 (071-493 3320 and 495 3434)
Huseyin Ozer's Middle Eastern restaurant, open midday to midnight every day, is serving "Back to Basics" two and three-course menus all day at £5 a head, or "healthy" lunches and dinners, consisting of ten *mezes*, at £8.45 and £9.95 respectively. His new no-smoking café, serving sandwiches, *fallafel*, *mezes* and casseroles from 8am to midnight daily has proved so popular that he proposes to open two more this year.

NEW BERTH
Docks & Co
66 Royal Mint Street, London E1 (071-488 4144)
A restaurant and wine bar filling one of the holes in Docklands keeps busy serving "chunky" sandwiches (from £1.75 to £4.50 for steak), hamburgers (from £3.50) and satay chicken with chips and salad (£3). Mondays to Fridays, 11am to 10.30pm.

ROBIN YOUNG

Cast aside the cutlery and enjoy the voluptuous pleasures of eating with your fingers

A sensual menu for lovers

Touching food is one of life's great sensuous pleasures. Silken asparagus and yielding fruit, dripping with cool juice, are the foods to eat with your bare hands at an amorous dinner. Lovers, on St Valentine's night, drop your forks.

Few restaurant dishes are as seductive as a platter of *fruits de mer* for two. Its secret lies partly in the salt-tang freshness of the seafood, partly in the shared meal, but mostly in the need to get your hands and lips on the food to scoop and prod and drip and suck and, finally, lick your fingers clean of juice and globs of rich mayonnaise.

Fingertip foods make a couple linger over a meal together — peeling fruit, poking out flesh from crab claws or winning sweet nuts from their shells — to savour the rewards of good food and each other's company.

> Sticky, juicy mangoes are best eaten in the bath

The particular holiday informality of eating with your fingers evokes pleasure and intimacy. Choose foods which are best eaten almost entirely without cutlery, such as globe artichokes and langoustines. Other dishes just need a helping hand. Faced with a bowl of *moules marinières*, I like to pick up the shells to prise out the plump molluscs and get my fingers in the bowl to mop up the juices with good fresh bread.

Some bits of meat — chicken wings, spareribs and oxtail, with all those complicated, puzzle-piece bones — can only really be enjoyed when lifted off the plate for a good gnaw.

Take-away or street food, bought on the hop and enjoyed on the hoof, is necessarily eaten without cutlery. Indeed, it is strange to eat it with anything but your fingers. Perhaps this is why it is so difficult to eat a plate of chips in a restaurant without picking up at least one or two.

Pancakes are sold as street food in France, folded in quarters and slotted into a napkin. You could prepare pancakes like this on Shrove Tuesday, spread with a good strawberry jam and *crème fraîche* and served without cutlery.

Touch is certainly one of my reasons for preparing food rather than snipping open packets of ready-made meals. Have you ever cut through the soft texture of ripe pears, rubbed olive oil into raw meat, felt the cool, smooth curves of a pepper or let your hands drop into a bowl of flour, soft and silent as powder snow?

For a St Valentine's dinner, serve good olives with the first drink, marinated in olive oil with cracked coriander seeds, garlic and fragrant rosemary. Roll the olives around in your mouth to pull the flesh off the stone and lick your fingers clean of the aromatic, glistening oil.

Slithery, lissome oysters are, of course, the classic dish of desire. Another such dish is asparagus, served with warm new potatoes and prawns, and with a good mayonnaise for a heavenly and earthy combination.

The main dish could be a garlic-scented mussel stew with beer, leeks, potatoes and parsley.

Scallops, bacon and cooked Jerusalem artichokes threaded on to bamboo skewers and grilled can be eaten by hand. Squeeze on lemon juice first.

Soft, juicy fruits which spill juice and scents are the best way to end the meal. Tropical fruits are generally good at this time of year. Mangoes spurt such an indecent amount of sticky, delicious juice that they are really best eaten in the bath. Enjoy them at the table if you do not mind licking juice off your chin.

Lychees are as interesting to touch as they are to eat. Rough, knobbled skin protects perfumed flesh that is as smooth, firm and juicy as jelly.

At this late stage in the evening, lazy and luxuriant, you could get your partner to do the work for you. I might just attempt my most vampish Mae West impersonation and demand: "Peel me a grape."

HATTIE ELLIS

BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY



Mark Gertler's vision of a what makes a perfect meal for two captured in his painting *Supper*

DISH OF THE DAY

Chef: Simon Hopkinson, 39.

Born: Bury, Lancashire ("Well, it was then").

Restaurant: Bibendum Restaurant and Oyster Bar, 81 Fulham Road, London, SW3.

Present: Equal partner with Sir Terence Conran and Paul Hamlyn in his restaurant. He is the chef without a Michelin star, whom foodies most vociferously clamour should have one.

Past: Started cooking in school holidays at the Normandie in Birtle, aged 16. Opened his own five-table restaurant outside Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, when he was 20. Worked as an Egon Ronay inspector



for two years from 1978. Recruited from Hilaire to open Bibendum in Michelin House in 1987.

Future: His book *Roast Chicken and Other Stories* is to be published by Ebury in April. "It is not a chef's cookbook but rather my philosophies and favourite things."

Personal: "I like playing poker, but cooking is my favourite pastime. I am also fascinated by wine."

Dish: Steak *au poivre*. Fillet steak with crushed black and white peppers, a splash of brandy and butter, and a spoonful of meat stock to blend the sauce. "I have been cooking it like this for the past 20 years, and it is the one dish that is never off our menu."

R.Y.

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Fiction in the kitchen

ENTERTAINING AT HOME

Susan Crosland



Susan Crosland — "I enjoy conversation *à deux*, whether with a woman or a chap"

Daytime is for work, evenings are for play or a quiet night, alone, reading in bed. As often as not, play consists of a close friend coming round for a drink, then staying for supper, or else we walk to a neighbourhood restaurant. I enjoy conversation *à deux*, whether with another woman or with a chap. Women together talk with startling candour about everything from affairs of the heart to affairs of the nation.

For several years after Tony [husband Anthony Crosland, then Foreign Secretary] died, I lived a pretty withdrawn life. When eventually I emerged into the world of the living as a single woman, I discovered the pleasures of living alone. Without the obligation of daily family life, you can decide exactly whom you want to see or not see, without having to confer with anyone.

Some weeks I never don an apron. Another week there'll be three dinners *à deux*. The evening usually kicks off with an American dry martini, straight up. Put 40 per cent proof gin into a pitcher with ice. Then stir, don't shake. Shaking — or so my father claimed — bruises the gin. Pour, without ice, into those glamorous martini glasses in which you have placed a couple of stoned green olives and twist of lemon peel. Only add a drop of dry vermouth if your guest insists. Warning: drink just one.

I can cook well, but I don't want to spend hours in the kitchen. Everything is fresh but simple. Smoked salmon trout, followed by something such as grilled duck breast with a baked potato and salad. Then the Susan house speciality, a favourite of mine since childhood days in Maryland: proper ice-cream with cold fudge sauce made with American chocolate so bitter it tastes of aloes. Wine buff friends act as personal advisers, so the wine's always good.

Inevitably, my friends tend to be from the worlds of politics, publishing and journalism, which also provide background for my novels — whether it's Number Ten, the White House, *The Times* or the British embassy in Washington. If my first-hand experience isn't enough, I'll ask someone knowledgeable to supper and mix business with pleasure, scribbling in my notebook while we eat.

For my new novel, I wanted to know more about how the parliamentary lobby system really works. I was acquainted with Elvie Soames only as a professional lobbyist, and I asked her if she'd kindly give me a tutorial over dinner. By the end of the meal, a new friendship had begun.

It's the same if I invite more than one friend, such as Raymond Seitz, the American ambassador, and his wife Caroline. For my book I wanted to know how an American Defence Secretary could conduct a clandestine affair at Claridge's when he's surrounded by all that security. I picked Ray's brains, unabashedly taking notes, and later sent him the relevant pages to check.

There's no dining-room in my west London flat, so we eat at the round table in my drawing room. It holds up to four comfortably or eight if I put a wooden oval top on it. That's when I make chicken diable from a recipe given to me 30 years ago by Frances Donaldson, the biographer and an old friend of Tony. The trick is to add Harvey's Sauce, made with anchovies, but you can only find it in good grocers.

The beauty of this dish is that it's made in advance, so you don't have to keep racing back and forth between the kitchen and your guests.

Frankie's chicken diable

(serves 6)

1 large chicken (boiler if possible)
court bouillon (made from celery, onion, whatever is around)

Sauce

1 large carton double cream
2tbsp Harvey's sauce
2tbsp Worcestershire sauce
2tbsp ready-mixed mustard

Poach chicken in the court bouillon until just cooked. Remove and allow to cool. Skin, take flesh off bones and arrange in a large flat dish.

Mix sauce ingredients, thin with top of milk and cover chicken. Serve hot or cold.

Interview by Alasdair Riley

● *Susan Crosland's latest novel, The Magnates, was published on Thursday (Orion, £16.99).*

NEXT WEEK

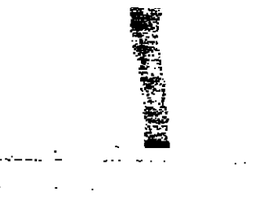
THE *Times*/Baron Philippe de Rothschild Cook of the Year 1994 competition, sponsored by Mouton Cadet, will be launched by Frances Bissell in *Weekend* next Saturday.

The winner will be given a week's advanced course at Leith's School of Food and Wine, and a workshop with Brian Turner in his London restaurant. Turner's. Two runners-up will accompany the winner and judges on a trip to Bordeaux, which will include lunch at Châteaux Mouton-Rothschild. All will be invited to bring their partners.

Full details of the competition will be published in *Weekend* next Saturday.

Valentine treat in store

Frances Bissell is tempted by the game and the golden fruit at Safeway



The TIMES COOK

UNLIKE one high-street store, which will remain nameless, until next week at least, in Safeway I can buy all the ingredients to make pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, including unwaxed lemons to grate into the batter and to squeeze on to the pancakes with sugar.

And I shall make a cake for St Valentine's Day; a simple heart-shaped sponge, filled with whipped, organic, double cream from Hergest Court Farm, part of The Farmers' Dairy Company, a small farmer-owned group producing chemical-free food. To such a cake, I sometimes add poached, forced rhubarb, or make a rhubarb fool for the filling. But at Safeway, I was tempted by the array of golden fruit, physalis, kaki, mango and kumquats, which will make an excellent cake filling.

The store has a good selection of ingredients for the home-baker, including Doves' Farm organic flours for cakes, pastry and biscuits at 69p for 1.5kg (3lb 6oz) and Jordans Strong Flour for bread at 89p. The store also stocks rennet, which is not always easy to find, and dried, pasteurised egg whites and egg yolks for those who prefer not to use fresh eggs.

Until I started this series on supermarkets, I knew Safeway only through its press releases, but recently I have shopped at its small store in Kilburn High Road and the large new one in Holloway Road, both in north London.

Among the usual produce on the "infant" vegetable section, I noticed baby red bell peppers from Spain. These are deep red and full of flavour, perfect for stuffing and baking. Elsewhere, separate bags of lambs' lettuce, rocket and alfalfa sprouts caught my eye, as did the herbs, all in clear packets and growing in pots, and the large bunches of fresh coriander.

Best of all, I liked the packs of fresh herbs and spices, for Indian cooking, which included lime leaves, chillies, lemon-grass, ginger, tamarind pods, turmeric root and galangal.

Safeway would be a good place to shop if you wanted to cook a meal with Indian flavours. There are naan and rotis in the bread section. Own-label chutneys looked good, and I was particularly taken with the "Ethnic Food" section, although I am not sure I agree with the description.

There is food from the Caribbean — callaloo, salt cod, black-eyed peas and creamed coconut, many kinds of flour ground from pulses, such as chickpeas and lentils: there is a section of Greek and Cypriot imports, including thyme honey and rose water: there is French confectionery, and a wide range of kosher products.

In the sections offering bread, fresh produce, oils and vinegars, delicatessen items, and preserved food in jars and tins there was a recognition that this store was in the centre of a multicultural community, and attempting to cater for all tastes.

A taste of nostalgia for the sandwiches my husband Tom enjoyed as a child in Pennsylvania led us to add Hellman's mayonnaise and a package of wafer-thin sliced ham to the shopping basket.

I liked the Game Shop and chose wild venison and pork sausages, wild venison steaks and wild venison grills. These provided the basis for three meals — a St Valentine's Day supper for two and two more casual meals for friends. I did not at all like the taste or texture of the wild venison pâté.

For a quick pudding, your family and friends will thank you for the



gelato alle nocciole, a dense, creamy Italian ice-cream with hazelnut paste, made in Italy by Mucca and Mucca. It was much better than the own-label walnut and maple ice-cream, which was altogether lighter and crystalline in texture.

My first course is antipasto, whether for the St Valentine's dinner, or a casual lunch or supper.

Antipasto

Call them hors d'oeuvres, *meze*, appetisers or what you will, they are small, savoury items, some pickled, some salted, some preserved in oil or natural juices, which whet the appetite, but do not sate it. I have chosen mainly vegetable or vegetable-based dishes, as I plan meat main courses to follow. Among the items I would choose are *tahini* (crushed sesame seed paste), morels, palm hearts, artichoke hearts from Italy or own-label from Spain in salted water, *pimentoes del piquillo* (small sweet red peppers from Navarra in Spain), anchovy fillets, olive and wild herb pâté from Greece, hummus, cubes of feta cheese in oil with herbs and garlic, and the Yarden Israeli range of vegetable dips, salads and sauces, such as grilled aubergines and Yemenite *shug* or hot pepper sauce.

The feta and the artichokes are preserved in an anonymous vegetable oil. An hour or two before serving, I drain this off and immerse them in extra virgin olive oil instead.

I like to put each on separate plates, rather than a large platter, and serve a few at a time. If you have leftover roast lamb or cooked rice on hand, you could also buy preserved vine leaves, rinse, stuff and bake them. Leftover smoked fish or salt cod can be used to make a stuffing for the red peppers.

Wedges of unwaxed lemon, generous sprigs of fresh coriander and black olives are all you need to serve with this, plus a basket of breads — pitta, ciabatta, foccacia, for example. A cruet of one of the Greek olive oils will go well. Choose Athena, Mani or Kydonia.

A bottle of the 1992 organic Muscadet sur Lie from Guy Brossard (£4.49) goes well with this.

In Norway I came across many uses of wild berries with game. At this time of year, imported raspberries are expensive, and the blueberries do not have enough flavour. I use *crème de cassis* for a rich blackcurrant flavour instead. This, too, goes well with darker game meat, such as grouse, hare and wild duck.

Venison steaks with blackcurrant sauce

(serves 2)

2 venison medallions, about 5oz/140g each
2tbsp *crème de cassis* liqueur
2tbsp fruit vinegar, sherry vinegar or balsamic vinegar
3 cloves, 3 juniper berries, 6 peppercorns
2tbsp walnut oil
1oz/30g butter
1tsp sunflower oil
4tbsp game stock
salt
freshly ground black pepper

Put the meat in a dish. Mix the liquids, crush the spices and mix all together with the walnut oil. Pour over the meat, cover, refrigerate and leave for an hour or so, turning it once. When ready to cook, bring the meat to room temperature, and reserve the marinade. Dry the meat well and heat a frying-pan with half the butter and all the oil, or use a non-stick pan. When hot, sear the meat on both sides, lower the heat and cook until done to your liking. Remove the meat from the pan and keep it in a warm place, loosely covered, on a plate. Sieve the marinade into the frying-pan and raise the heat. Allow to reduce slightly, and then stir in the stock. Once that is bubbling, quickly add the remaining butter, and season to taste. Pour in any cooking juices drained from the meat. Serve the sauce with the meat. Mashed potatoes and glazed kohlrabi slices are good accompaniments.

PAPPARDELLE are broad, flat noodles, which, when cooked, wind and fold themselves around a chunky meat sauce, as in this dish. The Safeway version is flecked with herbs and dried tomatoes. If you cannot get or make pappardelle, tagliatelle or fettucine can be used.

Pappardelle with wild venison sausage sauce

(serves 4, as a main course)

1lb/455g wild venison sausages
1 onion, peeled and chopped
1 celery stalk, trimmed and finely chopped
2-3 garlic cloves, peeled and finely chopped
1tbsp extra virgin olive oil
¼ pt/140ml game, beef or chicken stock
1½oz/40g bitter chocolate
1-2 sprigs marjoram, or oregano
2oz/60g seedless raisins
2oz/60g pinenuts (optional)
1tbsp balsamic vinegar
1lb/455g fresh pappardelle

Remove the meat from the sausage skins. Fry the vegetables and garlic in the olive oil until wilted. Raise the heat, add the meat and brown it briefly. Add the stock, the chocolate and the herbs. Simmer for about 40 minutes, uncovered, until the meat is tender and the sauce reduced. Stir in the raisins and pinenuts, if using, and cook for a few minutes to let the flavours mingle. Finally, add the balsamic vinegar. Stir the sauce into freshly cooked and drained pasta.

An excellent dish for vegetarians



can be made easily by gently heating the grilled aubergine salad I mentioned earlier, with a little of the Yemenite hot sauce, and folding it into the pasta.

Passion cake with gold fruit

(serves 4-6)

4oz/110g caster sugar
4 free-range eggs, separated
grated zest and 2tbsp juice of 1 orange
4oz/110g self-raising flour, sifted

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F, gas mark 4. Prepare a heart-shaped cake tin, or a round one if you prefer. Put half the sugar in a pudding basin, set over a saucepan of hot water. Add the egg yolks, and whisk until thick and pale. This will take about five minutes, during which time you should also whisk in the orange zest and juice. Whisk the egg whites, together with half the remaining sugar until peaks form. Fold in the rest of the sugar and whisk until firm and glossy.

Fold the sifted flour into the egg yolk mixture, and then fold in the egg white mixture. Spoon into the tin, shaking to fill it evenly. Bake for 10-12 minutes, until just firm to the touch. Turn out on to cake rack to cool. (See Shopping, page 7, for heart-shaped cake tins.)

Filling

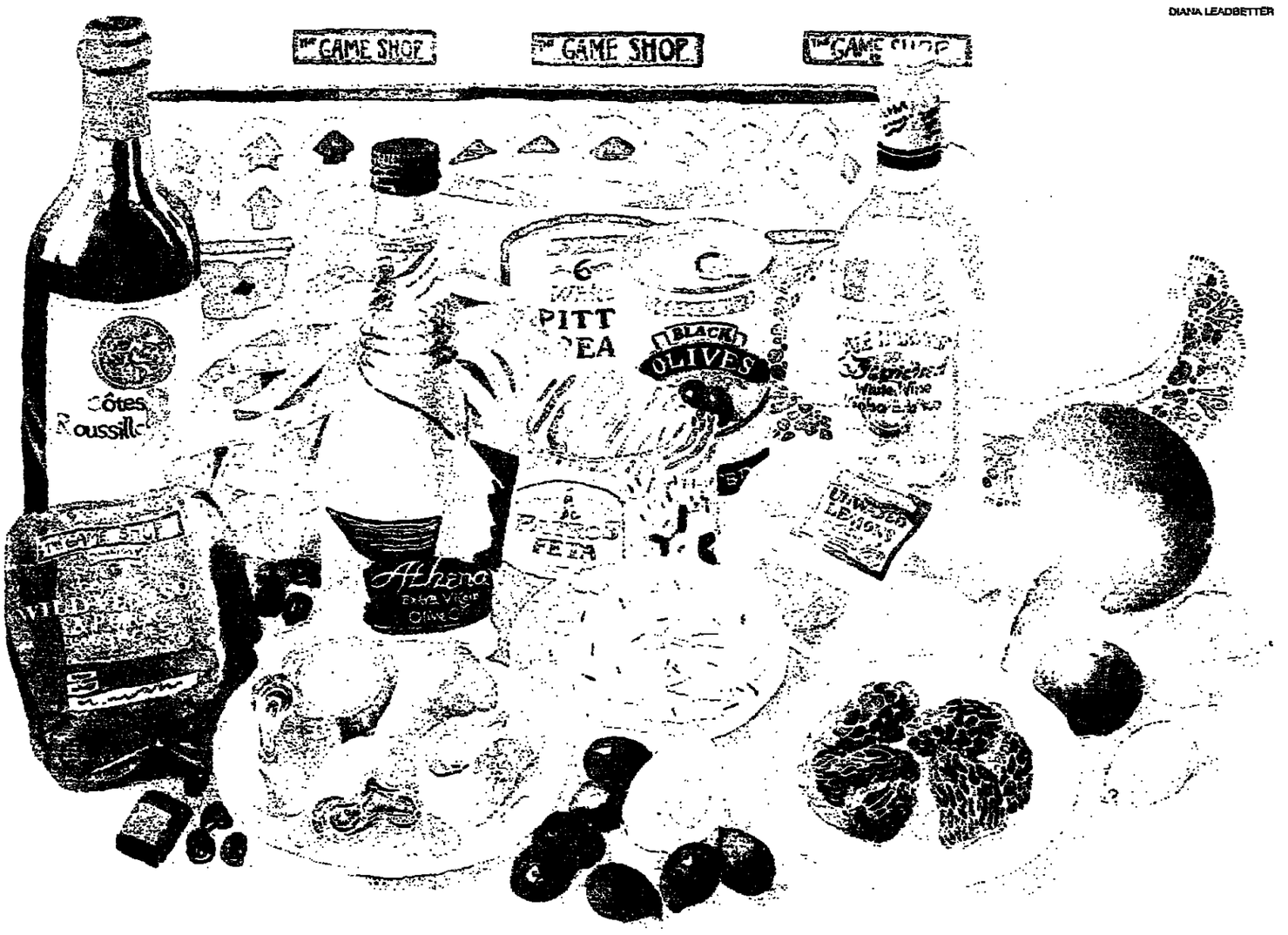
½ pt/280ml organic double cream
physalis, Sharon fruit, kumquats, *mango, passion fruit*
icing sugar for sifting

Whip the cream and, having halved the cake, spread one half with the cream. Whichever fruit you choose should be sliced or halved as appropriate, piled on the cream and the top half of the cake replaced. Dust with icing sugar before serving.

When using kumquats in the cake, I often halve them and poach them gently with passion fruit pulp and sugar.

● *Safeway customer service, 0627 713000.*

DIANA LEADBETTER



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Grape debate about whites

Jane MacQuitty on how to taste a white wine

ANTHONY BLAKE



Marlborough sauvignons, such as Cloudy Bay, are fruity

White wine has four main taste categories, each dominated to a greater or lesser degree by the variety of grape from which it is made. At the two extreme ends of the white-wine taste spectrum are sauvignons (crisp and grassy) and chardonnays (rich and buttery). In between lie the multigrape-based aromatics (closer to sauvignon) and the neutrals (closer to chardonnay), both of which include sweet and dry white wines.

Most people find it easier to decide which white wines they prefer than which red wines. The fresh fruit flavours of white wines seem easier to spot and enjoy than the robust, tannic styles of reds.

The easiest way to classify your palate's white-wine preferences is to find out whether you love or loathe the sauvignon grape. Even wine commentators' opinions are divided on this one: some (and I am one) love the sauvignon grape's crisp and assertive flowering-currant, gooseberry and grass cuttings-scented style; others (including Hugh Johnson) claim it is an inferior grape, that reeks more of cats and landladies' stairs than anything more palatable.

Marlborough sauvignons from New Zealand's South Island are the most extreme example of this grape: their flavour is full, young, herby and intensely fruity. If you enjoy these, then there is no doubt that sauvignon is to your taste. Loire sauvignons are one step down in flavour but often one step up in acidity; their fine floral freshness is most pronounced in sancerre and pouilly-fume. If these are still too intense for your taste, try the bordeaux blanc sauvignons, whose softer styles are lightened further by the neutral semillon grape.

If you decide that the sauvignon grape is not for you, then it is likely that the chardonnay grape will suit your palate, especially if you enjoy butter. The chardonnay flavour is at its peak in Burgundy's Côte d'Or wines. When young, these reek of fresh pineapple and, occasionally, ripe green apple flavours: when aged, and matured in oak, these flavours turn into rich, buttery, nutty layers. The chardonnay grape delivers a similar but less majestic and costly style elsewhere in France and throughout the rest of the wine world.

Not all fans of French chardonnay enjoy the more extreme tropical-fruit-salad flavour of New World chardonnays. But these are easier to appreciate than the original and are certainly cheaper — which partly explains the popularity of Australian chardonnay here. If you find yourself in the chardonnay camp, and like smoked foods, then you are also likely to be keen on oak-aged wines. Most chardonnays are aged in oak barrels before they are bottled, giving them a nutty, often smoky flavour. On the other hand, few sauvignons ever spend time in oak.

Wines made from aromatic grapes draw mixed reactions from British drinkers. Cognoscenti and novices love the riesling's apple, lime and floral scents: curry and pickle fans love the spicy gewürztraminer's lychee, roses and violets bouquet and the hothouse grape odour of muscat. If you enjoy any of these fruits or flowers, you also are bound to love the wines made from these varieties.

Neutrals, as their name suggests, are less flavoursome white wines. It is difficult for anyone to dislike their delicate style and shy scents. Muscadet is the best known white wine in this camp. Young chenin blanc from the Loire fits into this division, too, as do youthful semillon and new-wave cold-fermentation white wines from New and Old-World countries. The only objection might be to their vigorous acidity; refreshing to me but anathema perhaps to you.

BEST BUYS

SAUVIGNON

● **1992 Jackson Estate Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand:** *Tesco, £7.99, and moving on to the 1993: Thresher, Wine Rack and Bottoms Up, £7.99*
Sauvignon devotees will love this full, rich, gooseberry packed wine from the Marlborough region of New Zealand.

● **1992 Sancerre, Les Roches, Vacheron, France:** *Adnams, The Crown, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk, £8.40; Majestic Wine Warehouse, £8.99; Unwins, £9.99.*
Less enthusiastic sauvignon drinkers will prefer the more restrained but still vibrant flowering-currant style of this Loire wine.

AROMATICS

● **1992 Gewürtztraminer Vin d'Alsace, France:** *Waitrose, £5.75.*
Bone-dry example of the aromatics, with lychee, roses and violet fruit.

NEUTRALS

● **Sainsbury's Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine, France:** *Sainsbury, £2.49 until February 19.*
Invigorating white with plenty of zesty lemony fruit.

CHARDONNAY

● **1992 Rully, Olivier Leflaive, France:** *Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex, £8.50*
Bargain white Burgundy with a nutty elegance.

● **1992 The Rothbury Estate Chardonnay, Australia:** *Davison's, £5.99; The Winery, 4 Clifton Road, London W9, £5.95; Lay & Wheeler, £6.35.*
Big, bold buttery Australian fruit, overlaid with the sandalwood scents of oak.



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EMMENTAL SWITZERLAND

THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR TURNING EVERYDAY DISHES INTO EVERYDAY OCCASIONS

Ruth Gledhill attends the Zoroastrian feast day *Sādeh*, which celebrates the discovery of fire

Fired by a duty to share happiness and wealth



A SWEET scent of incense filled the large assembly hall in a former school in West Hampstead, northwest London, as three priests lit sandalwood in an urn. They wore white robes to indicate the virtues of purity and cleanliness, fundamental to the Zoroastrian religion. As a mark of respect, their heads were covered, as were those of all the men and women, mainly Iranian and Indian Parsi, in the packed hall.

The priests led the congregation in prayer, and some of the 300 Zoroastrians went on to light 72 divas (candles) in six trays, and to recite the *Atash Neyāyesh*, a prayer of entreaty or supplication to fire.

The liturgy was delivered in *Awestan*, a "dead" language, and written English translations were provided. "Homage unto thee, O fire of Hormazd, bestowing good, the greatest Yazata," the priests said, joined by the congregation. "In the name of god, creator Hormazd, the Lord beneficent. May the lustre and glory of Atash Dadgah, the exalted fire, increase."

Despite the wording of this prayer, Zoroastrians do not worship fire, which is considered to be a sacred force and the source of life, but is not thought to be a god. The religion is monotheistic and was founded by Zarathustra, known as Zoroaster in the West, a priest of the old polytheistic religion of Iran, who lived some time between 1500 BC and 600 BC.

After 12 years of hermit-like solitude, he began receiving visions and proclaimed the worship of *Ahura Mazdā* (the Wise Lord) as the source of *asha* (truth, righteousness and justice) and *vohu manah* (good mind). He called people to the threefold duties of *humata* (good thoughts), *hukhta* (good words) and *hvarshta* (good deeds).

Ahura Mazdā is believed to be omniscient but not omnipotent, and it is because he lacks power that chaos, misery and suffering exist. The role of believers is to make this god omnipotent by the cumulative effect of good thoughts, words and deeds. Zoroastrians, known for their charity, believe they should spread happiness and generate and share wealth.

From AD 300 to AD 700 Zoroastrianism was the national religion of the Persian empire but it collapsed under Arab Muslim invasion, becoming the minority religion it remains today. In the 10th century many Zoroastrians fled to India, forming the influential Parsi community. The first Zoroastrian known to have visited Britain came in 1723, and the first Indian firm to open for business here, in 1855, was run by a Parsi family. The numbers of Zoroastrians in Britain increased in the 1960s when many Parsis came from India, Pakistan and the African colonies. A few Iranians came after the fall of the shah in the early 1980s, and there are now about 6,000 here, compared with 150,000 worldwide.



Zoroastrian priests in traditional white robes lead the celebration

Beneath their suits, dresses and saris, all the Zoroastrians at the festival wore a *sudreh*, a sacred shirt which is white and made of muslin or cotton to represent the plant kingdom, and a *kusti*, a cord worn over the *sudreh*, which is passed three times around the waist and knotted at the front and back, representing the animal kingdom. Some had marks of ash on their foreheads, a sign that they had said *kusti* prayers before the ceremony that morning.

Zoroastrians have no set Sabbath, but celebrate about 20 festivals each year. The festivals fall throughout the 12 months of the Zoroastrian solar calendar, with the chief ones devoted to the creation of sky, water, earth, plants, animals and people.

The mid-winter festival we were celebrating is called *Sādeh*, and marks the discovery of fire by Hoshang Shah of the Pishdadian dynasty. It is one of a number of non-obligatory feast days.

AS THE morning progressed, the sensation grew of coming into the warm from a sunny but icy cold winter. Powerful scents of the spicy food that would be served for lunch wafted above us as our speaker, Vesta Sarkhosh, explained the legends surrounding the origin of fire. Hoshang was out hunting when he flung a stone at a snake, missed it and hit some flint instead. It was from this spark that the first fire is said to have been produced.

Many invited guests, members of other faiths, joined the congregation for initial prayers and a lecture. After the lecture, only the Zoroastrians were allowed upstairs to an inner sanctum, the *Setayesh gah* or prayer room, where the priests conducted a prayer ceremony and "fed" a fire, before allowing it to die at the end of the day.

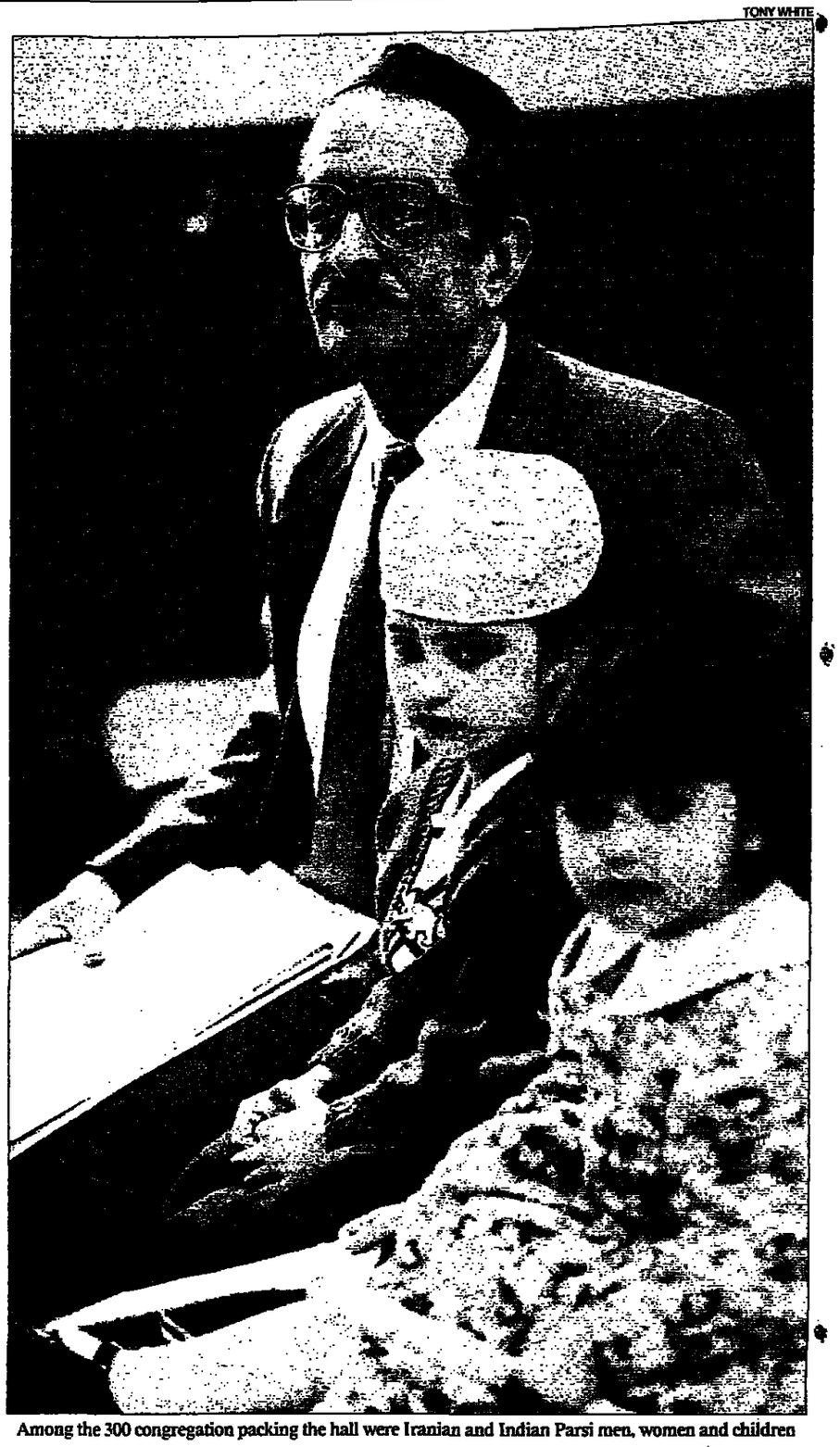
Traditionally, Zoroastrians worship in a fire temple, in which a consecrated fire burns perpetually, but there is none here. British Zoroastrians are fundraising for new premises, and aim soon to open a fire temple, the first in the Western hemisphere, and where a sacred fire will be tended round the clock.

Asked not to follow the procession of priests and worshippers into this prayer room, I left the several hundred Zoroastrians feasting and relaxing and went back into the cold, but with a sense of having been thoroughly warmed inside.

● *For festival dates call 071-328 6018.*

Zoroastrian *Jashnė Sādeh* (Fire Festival), Zoroastrian House, 88 Compayne Gardens, London NW6 3RU (071-328 6018).
PRESIDENT: Rusi Dalal.
ARCHITECTURE: Nondescript Victorian red-brick building.★
SERMON: Lecture on the legends of ancient Persia by Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis, an expert on Near-Eastern archaeology.★★★★
LITURGY: Recital in the ancient Persian language, *Avestan*, of the *Atash Neyāyesh*, the Zoroastrian fire prayer.★★★
MUSIC: The *Song of Sādeh*, in praise of "our crimson and colourful fire", sung by a group of Zoroastrians.★★★
AFTER-SERVICE CARE: *Lunch of typical Indo-Persian Parsi dhan-dal-patio*, or celebrational food, including rice, lentils, a vegetable gravy and fish cutlets. Donated by a benefactor.★★★
SPIRITUAL HIGH: Heartwarming.★★★
★ *Stars are awarded to a maximum of five.*

TONY WHITE



Among the 300 congregation packing the hall were Iranian and Indian Parsi men, women and children

THE TIMES READER OFFER: A CHAMPAGNE MURDER MYSTERY WEEKEND

Intrigue in the Cotswolds

Enjoy a weekend break with *The Times* and Perrier-Jouët, a weekend of fun and excitement, coupled with gastronomy and luxury. The Champagne Murder Mystery Weekend in the Cotswolds runs from Friday, March 4 to Sunday, March 6, at the Lygon Arms in Broadway, Worcestershire.

During the weekend, there will be the opportunity to taste some of the very finest Perrier-Jouët Champagnes, renowned for their consistency and quality.

The Lygon Arms will welcome guests from 1pm on Friday, March 4. This is to give readers the chance to take in the beautiful surroundings of the sixteenth-century coaching inn before embarking on the Murder Mystery Trail. Displayed in the rooms of the inn are a fine collection of clocks and antiques china.

The outline programme for the weekend begins with a Perrier-Jouët Champagne reception at 7.30pm on Friday, March 4. Then the scene will be set for the Murder Mystery Trail. The year is 1948 when King George is on the throne. Mr Truman is President, Humphrey Bogart is King and Fred and Ginger are all the rage. The intrigue will continue over dinner with a menu degustation created by chef Clive Howe.

The following morning breakfast will be served in the Great Hall and at around 10.30am guests will set off on a special treasure trail around Broadway, gathering clues along the way.

In the afternoon guests will be able to enjoy the leisure facilities at The Lygon Arms. These include the Grecian style swimming pool, spa bath, fitness room, solarium, steam room and billiards room.

At 7.30pm there will be a Perrier-Jouët Champagne reception, followed by dinner and the final revelations in the murder plot.

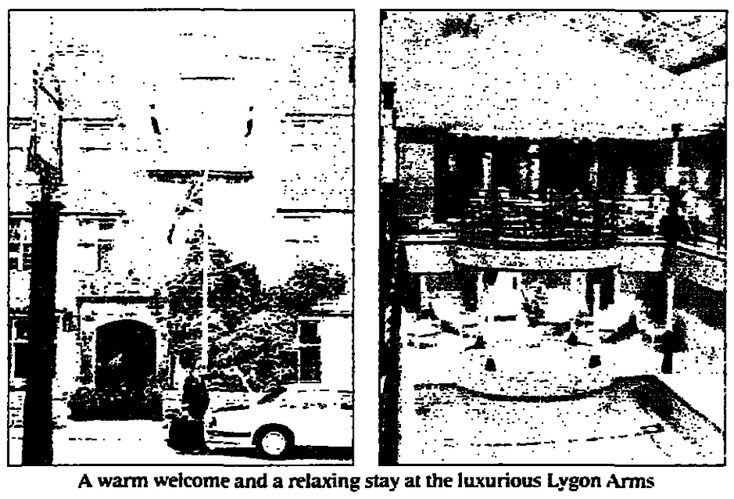
This marvellous murderous weekend will draw to a close on Sunday, with guests departing after breakfast.

The price is £199 per person for the weekend which includes: Murder Mystery Weekend Treasure Trail; accommodation for Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5 at The Lygon Arms; fruit and flowers in the room on arrival; morning tea and a copy of *The Times*; full English or continental breakfast each morning; buffet luncheon on Saturday; champagne reception and three course dinner each evening including wine; use of The Lygon Arms Country Club; and VAT.

Each couple will also receive a gift of Belle Epoque hand-painted Champagne glasses and a complimentary beauty treatment in The Lygon Arms Country Club of either back or shoulder massage; mini facial; solarium.

Supplements will be available as follows, a single supplement £30 per person per day or a suite supplement £75 per day. The standard rate for a twin-bedded room is £130 per night which includes morning tea and continental breakfast.

To book complete the coupon below left. Places are limited so early applications are advised.



A warm welcome and a relaxing stay at the luxurious Lygon Arms

MURDER MYSTERY WEEKEND

Please reserve ..... invitation(s) to the Perrier-Jouet Champagne Murder Mystery Weekend on Friday, March 4, 1994 at £199.00 per person (single supplement £30.00).

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I enclose my cheque made payable to Times Newspapers Ltd. (Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque.)

Value £ ..... Cheque number .....

Post coupon and remittance to: Jo Langran, The Times Murder Weekend, Promotions Department, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XP. Invitations are subject to availability.



Children's half-term listings



Roller bladers can join the fun at Winslow, Buckinghamshire, on Wednesday

LONDON

☐ **Mystery trail:** Follow "Inspector Scott" in his search for the missing ticket. *London Transport Museum, The Piazza, Covent Garden (071-379 6344). Today, tomorrow and until February 20, 10am-6pm. Adults £3.95, children £2.50. Under-fives, free. Also: Laughter Lines Cartoon Workshop with professional illustrator. Friday and Saturday, 11am-1pm and 2-4pm.*

☐ **Chinese New Year celebrations:** Make a lion head out of baskets; create your own lion dance. *Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street (071-603 4535). Today until February 20. Times and prices vary (e.g., today at 3pm, adults £1, children 50p). More New Year Chinese festivities to bring in the Year of the Dog in Gerrard Street and Leicester Square, tomorrow from 11.30am. Dragon dances and music. Admission free.*

☐ **Saturday art workshop:** Where they can make a mess. *Bethnal Green Museum, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (071-980 2415). Suitable for three-year-olds upwards. Today and every Saturday until March 26, 11am-2pm. Admission free.*

☐ **Travel back in time with the Dark Side:** an automated car which takes you past sets depicting London from Roman times to today. On Wednesday and next Sunday, there are demonstrations on the art of Dark Age woodwork. *Tower Hill Pageant, 1 Tower Hill Terrace (071-709 0081). Daily, 9.30am-4.30pm. Adults £5.45, children £3.45.*

☐ **Going places:** Half-term drama project for five to 12-year-olds. Theatre skills taught by the theatre company, Hoi Polloi. Children with disabilities welcome. *Turtle Key Arts Centre, 74a Farm Lane, SW6 (071-385 4405. Monday to Friday. Children £6 or £3 (if parents unwaged).*

AVON

☐ **Rocky Road Show:** One-day event on dinosaurs with quizzes, videos, etc. *City Museum, Park Street, Bristol (0272 223571). Today from 10am. Adults £2, under-16s free.*

BEDFORDSHIRE

☐ **Famous Olney Pancake Race:** *Church Street, Olney. Tuesday. Special children's event at 10.30am for local schools. Spectators free.*

☐ **Chocolate bar scramble:** Hunt them down in this treasure trail. *Woodside Farm, Mancroft Road, Slip End, Luton (0582 841044). Wednesday, 2.30pm. Adults £1.50, children £1.15.*

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

☐ **Button Moon and the Moon Monsters:** Presented by the Playboard Puppets. *Aylesbury Civic Centre, Market Square, Aylesbury (0296 86009). Tomorrow at 2.30pm. Adults and children £4. Families of four or more £3.50 each.*

☐ **Roller skating and fun sessions:** parachute games, obstacle races, etc. *Winslow Centre, Park Road, Winslow (0296 395900 ext 2295). Wednesday (roller skating), 11am and 2pm. For five to 15-year-olds. Friday (fun sessions), 10am (five to eight-year-olds) and 1pm (eight to 14-year-olds). Children £2.*

DERBYSHIRE

☐ **Children's week:** Steam-train rides, museum and animal farms. *Midland Railway Centre, Butterley Station, Ripley (0773 747674). Monday to Friday, from 11.15am-4.15pm. Adults £4.50 (plus one child free), children £2.25, under-fives free.*

HERTFORDSHIRE

☐ **The blacksmith's tools:** Learning/fun exhibition on tools for shaping; colours of heated metal; different bellows, etc. *Mill Green Museum, Hatfield (0707 271362). Today and tomorrow from 2pm to 5pm (and until April 24). Free.*

NORFOLK

☐ **Thumbelina:** Puppet show. *Norwich Puppet Theatre, St James, Whitefriars (0603 629921). Today at 2.30pm. Adults and children £3.*

OXFORDSHIRE

☐ **Floating Point Science Theatre** presents "Staying Up". King Plasma and children attempt to redesign their land's crumbling buildings. In the process they discover the forces of gravity with the help of the audience. Suitable for four to nine-year-olds. *Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street (0865 247134). Today at 10.30am. Adults £3.50, children £2.50.*



Georgian coffee house at the Tower Hill Pageant, London

☐ **Story devising and movement workshop:** with The Inside Out Theatre Company. For seven-year-olds plus. *Cropredy Village Hall (0295 252535). Thursday, 3pm. Children £2.50. Epwell Village Hall (Friday, 3pm), Fringford Village Hall (Thursday, 10am) and Hornton Village Hall (Wednesday, 10.30am).*

STAFFORDSHIRE

☐ **A Shrovetide fair and pancake race:** Entertainment for all ages. *Market Square, Lichfield (0543 257503). Tuesday at noon.*

SUSSEX

☐ **"I'm an animal":** Many parents might agree. Fun-filled activities to help children understand how they relate to the animal kingdom, eg, mirrors with questions underneath asking if children can wriggle their noses like animals. *Drusilla's Park, Alfriston, East Sussex (0323 870234). February 19-27. Daily from 10.30am-4pm. Adults £4.95, children £4.35.*

SCOTLAND

☐ **Time capsule:** Wild waves, ice-skating, sports centre. *Time Capsule, Coatbridge (0236 449572). Daily from 10am. Adults £1.25 (minimum), children 75p (minimum).*

TYNE AND WEAR

☐ **Hands-on interactive art displays:** Play on computers and light your hands with plasma globes. *Children's Gallery, Laing Art Gallery, Higham Place, Newcastle upon Tyne (091-232 6789). Today 10am-5pm, tomorrow 2pm-4pm. Admission free.*

WALES

☐ **Dotty dormouse:** Help conduct a dormouse survey and learn about British woodland. *Garwnant Visitor Centre, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid-Glamorgan (0685 723060). Thursday at 10.30am. Admission free.*

WARWICKSHIRE

☐ **Shrovetide football:** Traditional sweet-throwing by football team, plus a chance for the children to join in the game. *Long Street, Atherstone (0827 716410). Tuesday at 3pm. Admission free.*

YORKSHIRE

☐ **Sooty show:** Ever-popular bear who speaks for himself. *Civic Theatre, Cathering Street, Rotherham (0709 823640). Today at 11am, 2.30pm and 5pm. Adults £5, children £4.*

☐ **Goldilocks and the Three Bears:** Traditional panto for half-term laughs. *Leeds Grand Theatre, 46 New Briggate, Leeds (0532 459351). Today 2.30pm and 7.15pm. Until Saturday. Adults from £7.50, children 20 per cent off.*

☐ **Jorvik festival:** Torchlit procession and boat burning. *Various venues around York city centre (0904 611944). Today and until Saturday. Times and prices vary (some free).*

JANE BIDDER

A gift from the heart

Surprise the one you adore. **Nicole Swengley** finds special ways to say 'I love you' on St Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is the time for true romantics to stand up and be counted. Some may decide to run off for a romantic weekend in Paris, or to have a candlelit dinner *d deux* (see pages 4 and 5 for inspiring menus). For those who wish to give a present with, or instead of, such treats, here are a few ideas.

You could, for example, commission Poetic Licence (071-226 3110) to compose a personalised poem about the man or woman in your life. An original work of around 20 lines costs £35. Alternatively, you could adopt a wallaby or yak at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park (0582 872171) on behalf of your Valentine. Adoption fees start at £30 and cover an animal's feed and care for a year. You could even send your Valentine's gift in a balloon. The Non-Stop Party Shop (071-937 7200) will pop it inside a clear balloon or put it in a basket attached to a heart-shaped balloon (prices start from £9.50).

☐ Everlasting heart arrangement with 12 dried roses and foliage, £30, from The Flowersmith, 34 Shelton Street, London WC2 (071-240 6688).

☐ Heart-shaped cast-iron cocotte in red or white by Le Creuset, £43, from Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-730 1234).

☐ Georg Jensen silver heart and leaping dolphin brooch, £173, from Harrods.

☐ Hand-made Botte Blanche tied with red satin ribbon containing 1lb Charbonnel et Walker chocolates spelling a personal Valentine's message. £25 plus £3.50 p&p from Charbonnel et Walker, 1 The Royal Arcade, 28 Old Bond Street, London W1X 4BT (071-491 0939). Loose chocolates each with single letter, £4 per ¼lb plus £1 p&p.

☐ Moschino leather belts in red or black with heart-shaped golden clasp, £69 each, from Harrods.

☐ Hand-made velvet or fabric tea cosies with hearts and "Tea for Two" message, made by Lorna Moffat, £45 each from Gifts for Valentines selling show of craftworks (January 19 - February 13) at the Crafts Council Shop, Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (071-589 5070).

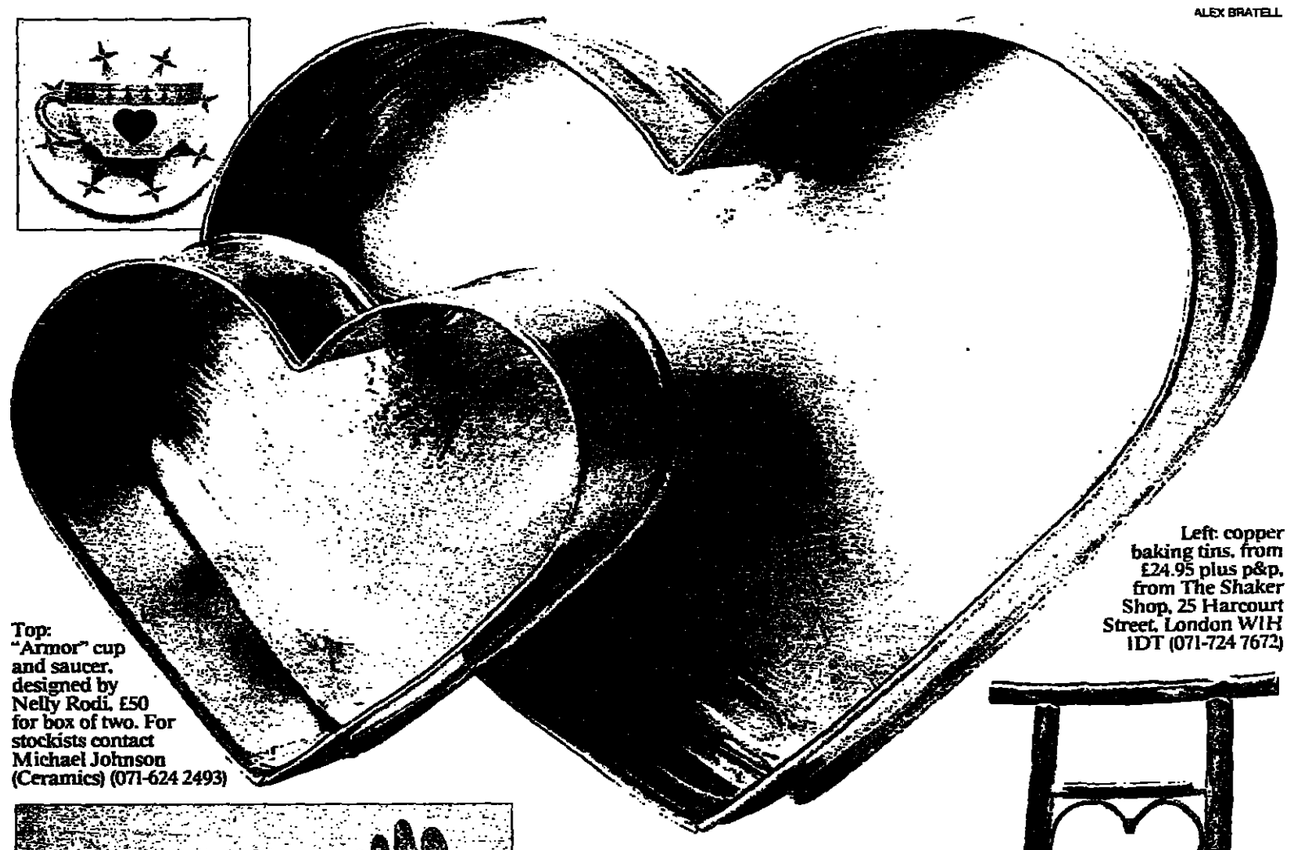
☐ Half-bottle of Bollinger Special Cuvée champagne gift-packed with Bendicks Victorian mints, £15.95, from Threshers, Bottoms Up, Wine Rack. For other stockists, call 071-222 2522.

☐ Drop earrings, 2in long, on fine silver chain with delicate cornelian, hematite and onyx hearts, £47 plus £2.50 p&p, from Cobra & Bellamy, 149 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-730 2823).

☐ Hallmarked sterling silver pillbox, engraved "*Je t'aime*", £70 plus £3.50 p&p, from Links of London, 27 Broadgate Circle, London EC2 (071-628 9668) and 24 Lime Street, London EC3 (071-623 3101). Hugs and kisses silver cuff-links, £61 plus £3.50 p&p, from Links of London.

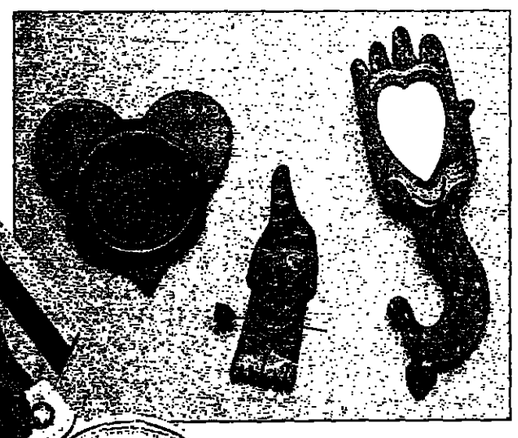
☐ Book called *A Kiss*, available from Ebury Press, £4.99.

ALEX BRATELL



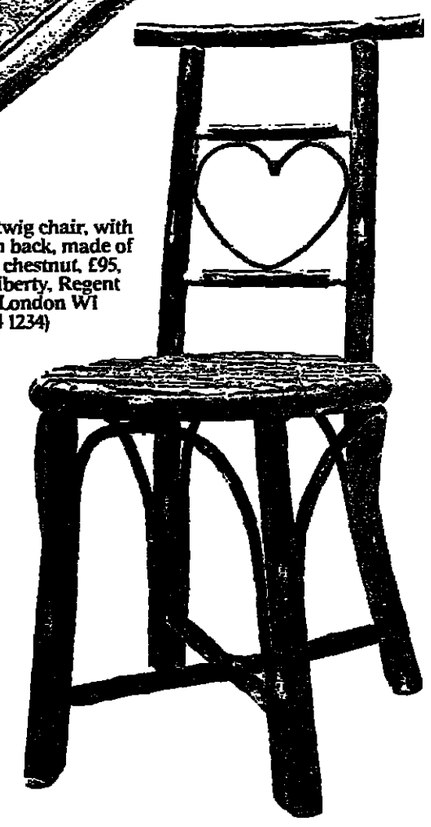
Top: "Armor" cup and saucer, designed by Nelly Rodi, £50 for box of two. For stockists contact Michael Johnson (Ceramics) (071-624 2493)

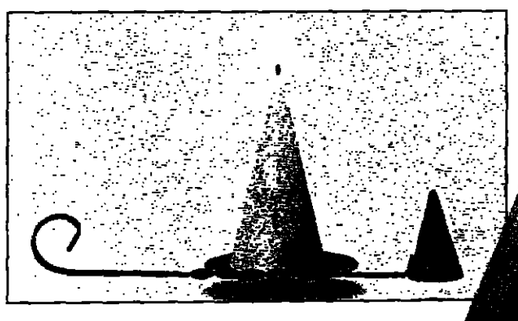
Left: copper baking tins, from £24.95 plus p&p, from The Shaker Shop, 25 Harcourt Street, London W1H 1DT (071-724 7672)



Left: wrought-iron heart door knocker, £22 inc p&p, by mail order from Artisan, 797 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JT (071-498 6974). Hand-carved wooden cat clutching roses in its mouth, made by Frank Egerton, £63 each, from Gifts For Valentines (see text). Wooden hand-shaped mirror made by Jim Edmiston, £20.70, from Gifts For Valentines

Right: twig chair, with heart in back, made of French chestnut, £95, from Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 1234)

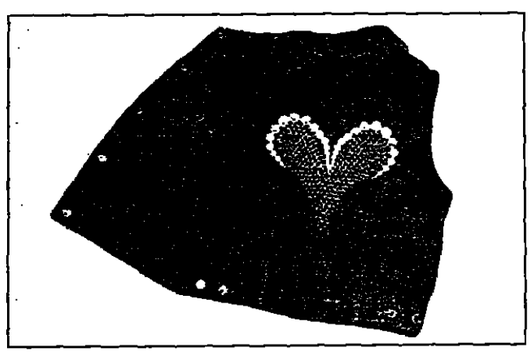




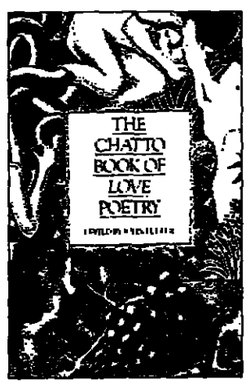


Above: conical candle with cupid design, in gift box, £9.95, from The Museum Store (as right)

Far left: circular cherub and musical score boxes in four sizes, £2.95-£5.95, from Liberty



Left: chocolate medal, £1.50, from The Museum Store, 37 The Market, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 5760).



The Chatto Book of Love Poetry, £8.99

Ben Elton confesses his sins and celebrates his saving graces

vices & VIRTUES



PRIDE: My New Year's resolution was to take myself less seriously. It irritates me when I read that I'm not as good a writer as I like to think I am. I'm not proud on the whole but I do get irritated if I think my work is underestimated.

SLOTH: I don't do a 40-hour week — never have, never will. I prevaricate, nibble, wander round the house, read a newspaper. Writers have a perfect excuse for avoiding work — they can pretend it's the artistic muse, or gestation. I sometimes hear writers saying they have to go to France to work — anyone would say that if they could.

WRATH: I get angry when I perceive intolerance . . . but then, the joke is, I become intolerant myself. If you feel wrath, then you're acting irrationally. I may have a reputation for being angry. I hope there's a lot of passion in my work and a lot of commitment, but I don't think there's anger. When I flare up, I normally regret it. Eighty per cent of my work is about what I delight in.

LUST: Like any man I've ever spoken to, I find myself constantly tempted to turn my head in the street to look at a woman. I try not to do it, because it's damn rude. I wouldn't like to be stared at. I don't deny that I'm tempted to ogle, I just try not to do it. Men are head turners.

GLUTTONY: I'm a terrible nibbler. Working at home the temptation to nibble at crisps is enormous, which is bad for my skin. I'm a good cook in so much as I know that if I follow Delia to the letter, it will turn out all right. My mother used to call me gastronomically timid. I used to be indifferent to food. Normally, I eat out and try not to order pizzas any more.

ENVY: My ambition has always been to work in entertainment. Because I'm doing that, I'm a pretty happy person and I don't look at another person's lifestyle and wish I was doing that instead. Occasionally I resent people, but that's a very different thing.

AVARICE: I enjoy the ultimate luxury, which is to be able to pick and choose the work I do and when I do it, but that's a very different thing from avarice. I don't covet possessions, I like nice things and a comfortable home but I don't want four of them. I would find it very difficult if I suddenly had financial worries.

HOPE: I am deeply concerned with our attitude to the planet. I believe that our place on earth is the defining issue of our age. I hope that we come to an understanding that we're part of the process of life on earth and not separate from it. I have faith that we will, but it will be a close-run thing. But then all big issues are.

CHARITY: In the long run my hope is that charity should be unnecessary. We should organise our society so that people are not left wanting or in fear for themselves. If we leave protecting the weak to a *laissez-faire* stroke of conscience, the weak will go down.

JUSTICE: One has to act fairly by others. When I see people unfairly treated, I feel a sense of hurt and outrage. Bullying is the most loathsome practice of all and is the opposite of justice. I loathe a bully and hope I've never bullied. I'm in the fortunate position to be able to act justly. I try to speak up, but I've never had to show any great courage to do so.

FAITH: I don't follow an organised religion, although I'm not so foolish to think there aren't mysteries in the universe that surpass our understanding. I have a sense of mystery in my life but don't put my faith in indefinable abstracts. I have faith that there is a greater sum of good in human nature than bad, despite evidence to the contrary.

FORTITUDE: I've never really been called on to show fortitude in any real sense. I hope that I'll show fortitude should the time come, but I've not yet been tested.

PRUDENCE: I worry over little things — checking a second time that I've turned the gas off, but that's not prudence, it's paranoia. I can be a bit imprudent at times — I do like a moment of excitement, scrambling up rocks or jumping in white water — but I will always check I've got my tickets five times. I'm financially prudent — I would never spend all my money.

TEMPERANCE: In terms of the doctors' definition of a heavy drinker, I and almost everyone I know have been heavy drinkers for years. I love drinking so much that I am careful not to drink so much that I would have to give up. I'm probably on the side of being a bit unhealthy.

Interview by Edward Marriott

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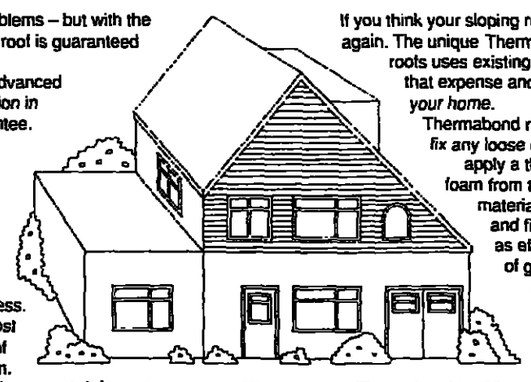
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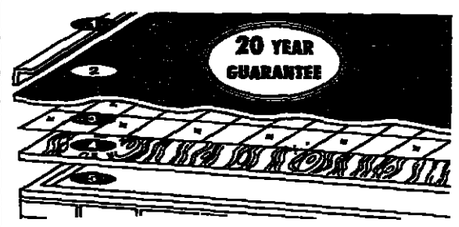
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The Norwegian ski that refuses to come to heel

Telemark, the forerunner of modern skiing, is back in fashion after a century out of favour

SKISHOOT-OFFSHOOT



Modern equipment has made telemark skiing accessible for everyone — "no technique gets you closer to the snow"

Norway taught the world to ski, but it was not skiing as we know it today. At the Lillehammer Olympics, which begin today, skiers from all over the world will be racing downhill on skis and boots very much like the ones we hire on ski holidays.

Although Olympic racers ski faster and harder, their technique is basically the same as holiday skiers use on the blue pistes.

The old Norwegian telemark method of skiing is completely different. Telemark uses skinny skis with no binding to hold down the heel, and turning involves a deep genuflection to the snow gods.

The name "telemark" comes from a region of southern Norway. The most famous telemark skier of all time was Sondre Norheim, whose daredevil downhill rushes followed by phenomenal leaps through the air anticipated today's "extreme skiing" by a century. The telemark turn was contrived primarily as a way of landing after a jump without falling.

Even today no nation skis more than Norway. An estimated 80 per cent of the population slaps on the boards at least once a winter. More often than not those skis are telemark skis. Now, after almost a century of eclipse, telemark is a thriving cult sport all across the Alps and North America.

At the first Winter Olympics, in 1924 at Chamonix, France, the super-G, the downhill and slalom — what are now called "alpine" events — had yet to be invented. "Nordic" skiing, downhill and over jumps, on telemark skis was the only skiing technique in existence. Norwegians swept all the events.

The old Norwegian telemark skis and the knee-bend turning technique were superseded early in the 20th century. Skinny telemark skis just could not cope with man-made bumps and boiler-plate ice, nor the steeper ski fields of Switzerland and Austria.

Bored with skiing on the perfectly groomed runs of Colorado, American ski bums resurrected telemark in the 1970s, inspired by reading the 1966 classic, *Come Ski With Me*, the Norwegian writer Stein Eriksen's recollections of his grandfather's era.

In the 1970s and 1980s, telemark was restricted to a very small group of expert skiers. The gear was difficult to find, and to use. Boots fell apart and the bindings often separated from the skis. Telemark skis are still called "three pins" after the simple front-toe hold-down. The style is called "freeheel", because the back of the boot is not held down by any binding.

But technology has transformed telemark. The new telemark skis, made with carbon fibre, are now secure on hard snow and ice; the bindings no longer break; and the first reliable plastic telemark boot, the Scarpa Terminator, means that you do not have to spend months breaking the boot in, and the boot never breaks down on you.

Telemark gear is lighter and far less restricting than alpine equipment. Much less stress is directed to the knee ligaments. No technique gets you closer to the snow.

Ernest Hemingway, a telemark skier himself, described the technique perfectly: "George came tearing down in a telemark position, knees crouched, but with one leg forward and bent and the other dragging behind. His poles hung behind him like a pair of thin insect legs, and whirled up small clouds of snow when they touched the snow on the ground. And finally, this half-kneeling figure with the trailing poles made a beautiful right turn, crouched over, got the skis in the right position — one forward the other back, while the body provided the right counterbalance for the turn, and the poles indicated the curve as two luminous points — all in a whirl of snow."

Telemarkers of the 1980s were often dubbed "granola heads", because of their propensity for bushy beards, woolly jumpers and muesli bars. But in the 1990s, 15-year-olds are abandoning their snowboards to ride the bumps and trash the powder in Oakley iridium glasses and bright colours. Sales of new telemark gear were up 300 per cent last year.

In the new telemark era it does not matter how you turn. Skiing parallel, the same way you would on ordinary skis, works wonders. It is true that at telemark races, especially in Scandinavia, judges scrutinise each turn carefully and award points for the purity of telemark technique. But even skiing in the bumps is easy if you keep the telemark skis relatively parallel.

In deep powder snow the telemark turn is the most natural of manoeuvres. Telemark is far more of a full-body experience than being buckled and snapped into alpine boots and bindings, and learning is surprisingly easy. An intermediate piste skier can make telemark turns without falling down after one day of lessons. In a week, you too can be a whirling dervish, just like George.

DOUG SAGER

In the telemark tracks

☐ As a cult sport, telemark is most prevalent at the resorts of Val d'Isère and Chamonix, in France; St Anton, Austria; Verbier, Switzerland; Whistler, in Canada; and Crested Butte, Jackson Hole and Telluride in the United States. La Clusaz in France, although a resort of little renown, is one of the top telemark venues in the Alps.

☐ Almost all ski schools now advertise telemark lessons. Hiring good gear, especially the new telemark plastic boots and high-tech skis, is a problem. The level of instruction also varies considerably, as standards for teaching certificates are still at the development stage.

☐ Nick Hammond has been a pioneer in the new telemark. His shop, Mountain Air in Verbier, is the only one in the Alps to offer a complete range of gear for sale and hire, in conjunction with telemark lessons. A brochure covering the history and current state of telemark is available from Mountain Air (010 41 31 62 31).

☐ Other ski shops with a good range of gear for sale and hire include: Strolz, Lech, Austria (010 43 5583 23610); Top Ski, Val d'Isère, France (010 33 79 06 14 80); K2 Sports, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy (010 39 436 863 706); Bayard Sport, Zermatt, Switzerland (010 41 28 672 255); Sporthaus Schneider, St Anton, Austria (010 43 5446 3295).





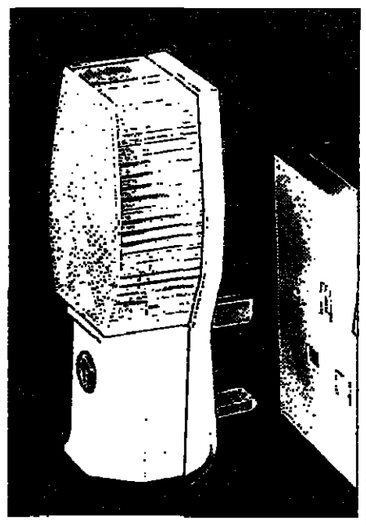
THE TIMES

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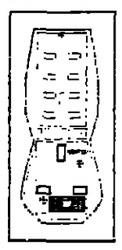
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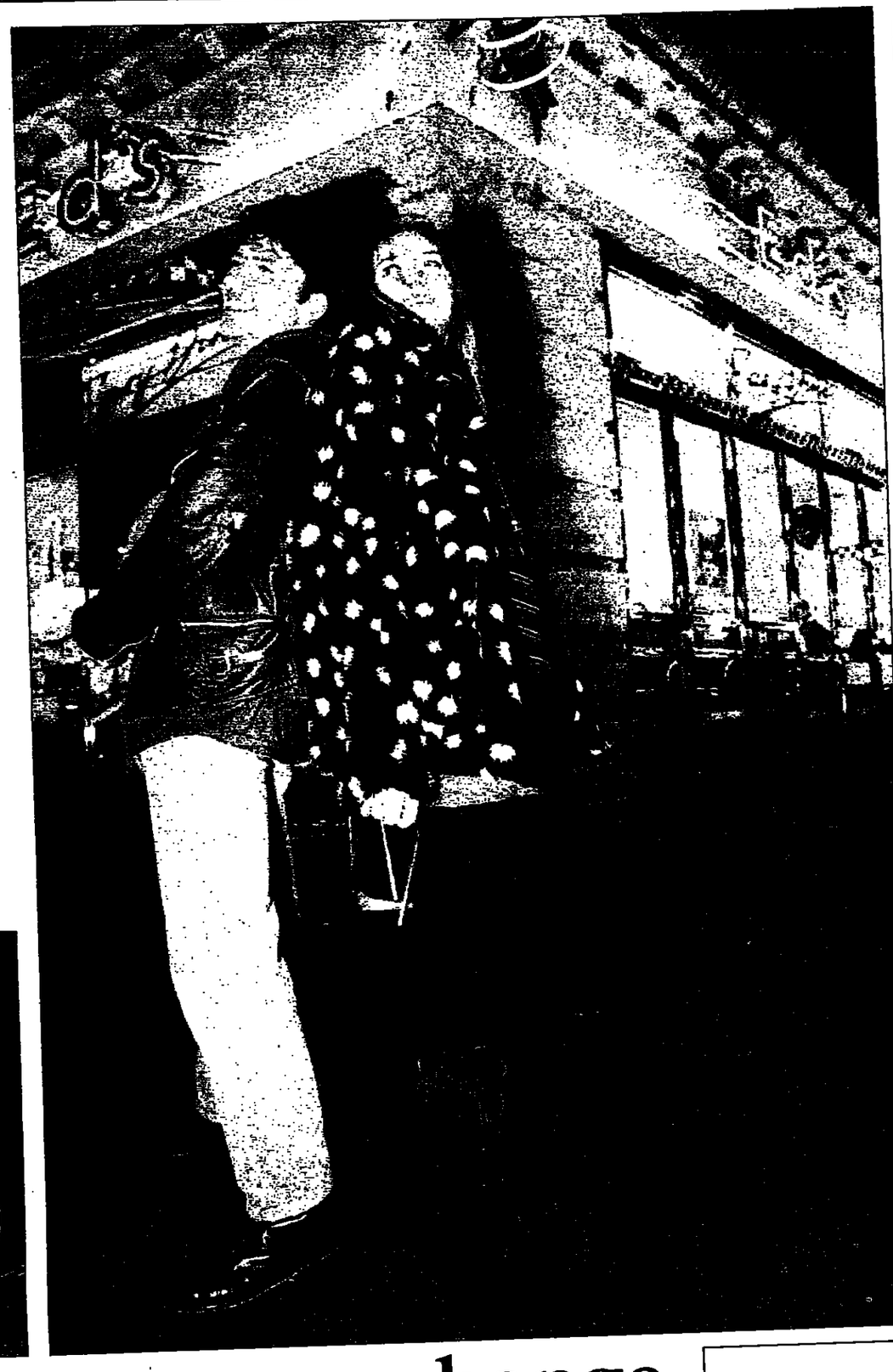


Above: Allison Blackmore, 33, an actress, wears her mother's vintage 1950 suede coat; a silk waistcoat by New Zealand designer Liz Mitchell, £80; her father's army beret, and home-made khaki leggings. Grant Bell, 29, from New Zealand, sports a Jigsaw brown leather jacket, £425; Next scarf, £10; and Levi jeans, £40

Left: Glaswegian textile designer, Clare Brett, 27, shows off her check jacket; scarf from Pringle, £10. Ally Capellino red wool hat, £49; Gap Black Watch tartan shorts, £32; Sock Shop stockings, £2.50; shoes from Shelley's, £32.99

Photographs by Stephen Markeson
Soho style notes by Steven Fox





Out and about on the streets of Soho. Left: film student Farah Elaouni, 21, from Tangier, Morocco. She frequents London's markets for her clothes. At Camden Market she found her hat, £7, linen skirt, £12, and boots, £30; her black leather jacket came from Portobello Road market, £5; jumper from Top Shop, £24; and scarf from Oasis, £6.

Right: Anthony Barnes, 26, a journalist from Sunderland, found his black leather jacket at a Manchester market stall, £60; jeans in a Bangkok market, £5; and shoes by Dr Martens, £30. His girlfriend, Emma Soane, 24, a psychologist, wears a home-made coat created from car-seat coverings, £7; suede skirt from Kensington Market, £25; boots from San Francisco, £40; and striped blouse from Hennes, £15.

Below: film student Mette Christensen, 20, from Copenhagen, made her brown suede toggle coat; her belt, £10, waistcoat, £22, jeans, £30, and platform shoes, £60, came from Danish flea markets.



The song may change but the show never ends in Soho

From hunting forest to urban jungle, Soho is London's louchest quarter, and the best shows are not just on the stage



Left: James Roccelli, 20, a disc jockey, found his coveralls at Kensington Market, £15; Fila T-shirt at Camden Market, £20.

So-ho, we are told, was the hunting cry that gave London's louchest quarter its name, back in the days when it was a royal park. Defying all efforts by Westminster Council to clean it up, its air is still tangy with the sense of quest, of strenuous physical pleasures, occasionally even with the whiff of blood.

I love to ramble through it, drunk on its unique combination of novelty and familiarity: new immigrants, new operators, new vices, but its bedrock is its unchanging tradition.

Out from the underground by the Piccadilly Theatre, a vast 1920s mausoleum of blighted dreams. Raj, the front-of-house manager, is always there. Some say he even sleeps there. Raj has a Cassandra-like power to predict when the notice will go up on the current show.

Flop after musical flop has died here: *Mutiny!*, with its awful choruses of "Breadfruit/breadfruit/breadfruit . . .", *Moby Dick*, because even Cameron Mackintosh can get it wrong, *King, Metropolis, Robin of Sherwood*, and of course the Norwegian *Which Witch*. This caused a diplomatic incident as ugly as the cod wars. Even a solemn state visit by the King and Queen of Norway could not stifle the titters. A shaven-headed maiden, skirts billowing *à la* Marilyn in the flames, squealing coloratura arias while the devil whizzed above the audience's heads gave them the best laugh in ages.

Thank God, Raj tells me, Elaine Paige is now packing them in. It is not just the initials which she shares with Edith Piaf. The voice — as epic, as thrilling as ever — fills even the Piccadilly. And Piaf, had she been a Londoner, would have operated around here.

Wriggling through the NCP car park, one comes to the yard where Jessie Matthews lived as a child. Here she tended her numerous siblings and, occasionally, performing elephants from the nearby Palladium. Opposite, stands the old Windmill Theatre, rechristened by Paul Raymond "La Vie En Rose".

When Kit and the Widow worked there, our dressing room overlooked the busiest tarts' corner, on Archer Street. Mr Raymond's stab at presenting *rive gauche* cabaret included a stripper who could hang coat-hangers from her nipples, and another who failed to appear for three consecutive days when her lover tied her to the bed. There was a Hungarian knife-thrower, whom we urged in vain to change his name from "The Great Bòr", and a muscle boy so stoned on steroids that he could barely stand up. There was a drag queen who one day suffered a nervous crisis, piled all his drag into the middle of the room, set fire to it, and leapt into the flames, shrieking, "*Je suis Jeanne d'Arc!*"

I love and respect Mr Raymond. The sleaze from which he made his millions seems, in comparison to today's hard-core horrors, almost cosily acceptable. He began as a mind-reading act at the Deptford Albany, and at his Boulevard Theatre, across the Bridge of Sighs from the Raymond Revuebar, he gave almost everybody in today's comedy establishment his or her first break.

Long ago, I held my stag night at Madame Jo-Jo's, nightclub and after-hours drinking club. Then, my burly ex-docker friend Brian (aka Ruby Venezuela) burst out of a volcano dressed as Cio-Cio San, singing "One Fine Day", while androgynous waiters danced around her, chanting, "The mountain is angry! The mountain is angry!" I can truthfully say that it was my purest moment of theatrical pleasure. Nowadays I drift past Madame Jo-Jo's. It has become the haunt of young commodity-brokers.

Instead, I stop at La Camisa, the delicatessan on Old Compton Street, to buy a tub of olives stuffed with garlic, chillies and anchovies, and bless God's creation. Maybe I'll nip upstairs to Tomasz Starzewski's flat. The astonishingly successful Polish couturier is even better at cooking.

Old Compton Street has quietly become gayer than Paris. The boys, with their squaddies' haircuts and combat boots, would be undetectable in Clinton's new military. Past the cruisey cafés, and into Meard Street. Here the Widow and I worked a decade ago, at The Comedy Store. The lift, operated by a sozzled old darling, disgorged you at the head of what was rumoured to be a Matisse staircase, in chrome and brass, a commission undertaken to pay off his drinks bill. That was when it was the Gargoyle Club, and David Tennant presided.

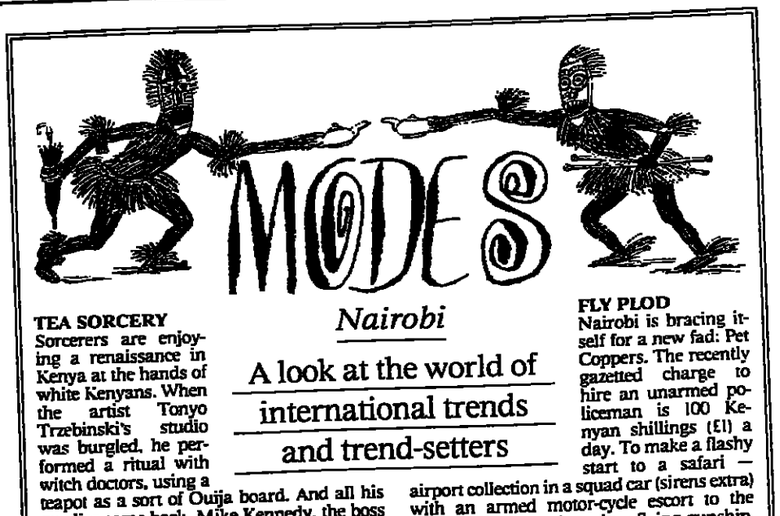
I do not know what today's Gargoyle is, but I suspect it is the Groucho Club. The minnows will carp, but at 1am on a good weekday there really is nowhere else. Stephen Fry booms like Dean Swift; Griff Rhys-Jones capers like George Burns. And the just-living embodiment of Soho slumps insensible in an armchair: Jeffery Bernard, its presiding genius, magnificently displays both Soho's tenacious continuity, and its power to reinvent itself.

KIT HESKETH HARVEY



"We urged the Hungarian knife-thrower to change his name from 'The Great Bòr'"

KIT HESKETH HARVEY



Nairobi

A look at the world of international trends and trend-setters

TEA SORCERY
Sorcerers are enjoying a renaissance in Kenya at the hands of white Kenyans. When the artist Tonyo Trzebinski's studio was burgled, he performed a ritual with witch doctors, using a teapot as a sort of Ouija board. And all his goodies came back. Mike Kennedy, the boss of an exclusive holiday camp on the island of Kiwayu (favourite spot for British toffs, usually under the wing of Susannah Constantine, Lord Linley's former girl friend), has been having a six-month duel with a rival through their respective wizards. "Weird stuff," Mr Trzebinski says. "But it works."

VESTED INTEREST
Dan Eldon, the Reuters photographer who was killed in Somalia last year, left a collection of art and designs which friends, Nairobi's beautiful people, have put on to T-shirts and dresses. The clothes will be sold to raise money for the Depot (Dan Eldon Place of Tomorrow), a creative centre for Kenyan youth. The Happy Valley crowd are delighted with them. Ideal for "another perfect day in paradise", the clothes are cheap, elegant and cover very little flesh.

HEAVENLY LINE
Normally asked to pen messages for the lovesick, unemployed, or isolated illiterates, some of Kenya's professional letter writers have raised their prices after being discovered by Wageni (visitors). A typical opening line: "May the tears of the Lord which fall from the sky wash sadness from your heart and cause your shamba (farm) to bloom". Makes a change from "Dear John . . . ".

BAND WAGONS
Kenya's music scene is not in the clubs but on the buses. The gaudy wagons, known as Matatus and bearing such names as "Tolerance of Ladies" and "Deliverance", thump out the latest hits from fridge-sized speakers. Fail to provide ragga on the Dandora line, and little old ladies won't climb aboard.

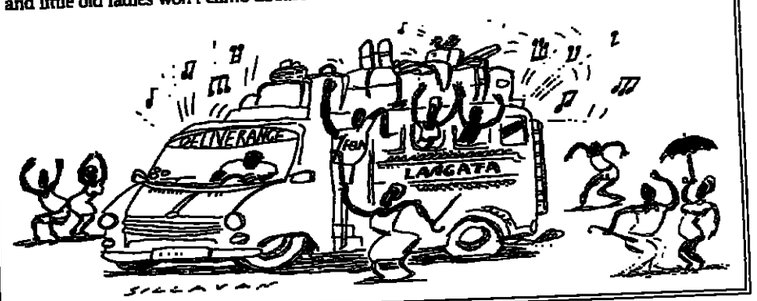
FLY PLOD
Nairobi is bracing itself for a new fad: Pet Coppers. The recently gazetted charge to hire an unarmed policeman is 100 Kenyan shillings (£1) a day. To make a flashy start to a safari — airport collection in a squad car (sirens extra) with an armed motor-cycle escort to the police heli-pad, an hour in a flying gunship, and another being serenaded by the massed bands of the Kenyan Police — costs £268.



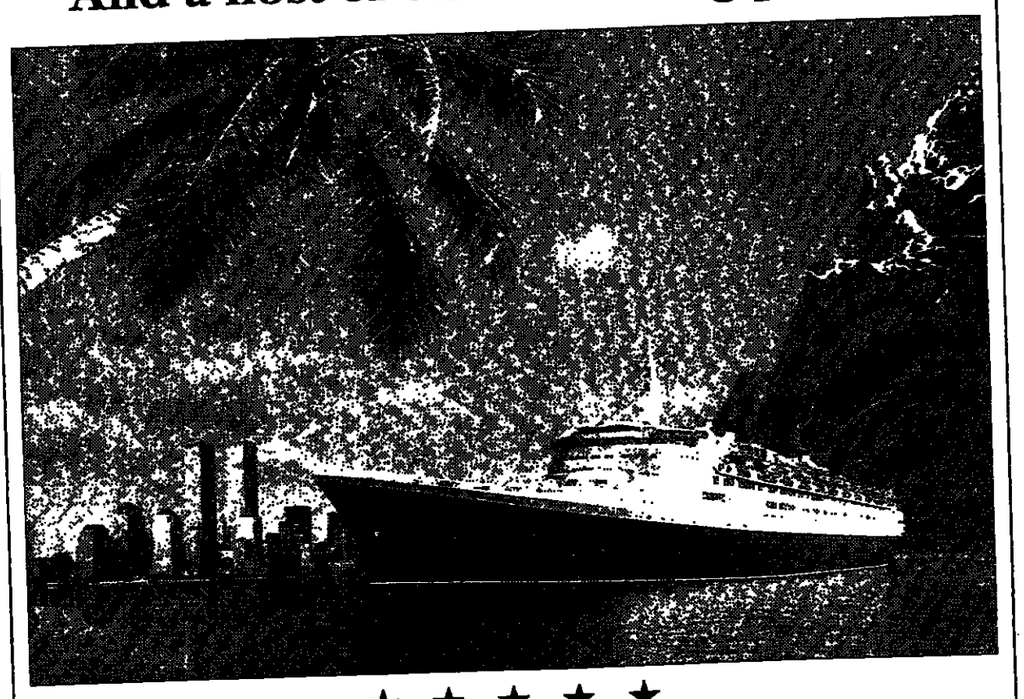
HONEYPOTS
Attempts by the UN's World Food Programme organisers in Ethiopia to persuade its drivers to use condoms collapsed when truckers, to their pained rage, discovered that the rubbers were too small. They had been made in Japan. In Kenya, condoms are now used for anything from waterproof boots to honeypots. But not for sex.

RIDING HIGH
Matatu touts, who hustle for custom on the buses, have become the national anti-heroes. Teenage girls waste their pocket money riding the buses for hours at weekends, hoping to catch the eye of one of their heroes.

SAM KILEY



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With two million children a year taking adventure holidays, demands are growing for regulation

How safe are activity centres?

WHEN Charlie Brown went off to summer camp, Snoopy used to be left at home, morose and lying on top of his kennel. But in Britain any boarding kennel Snoopy might be sent to for the duration is likely to be better regulated than camps and adventure holidays for children.

Ever since *Swallows and Amazons* and *The Famous Five*, a certain sort of child has always wanted to go on an outdoor holiday, and parents possessed of this lucky breed have heaved sighs of relief. Of course you will miss them, but it will be character building, you think, and with not a computer game in sight what could be healthier?

But while you are wondering how many Mars Bars they have hidden at the bottom of their suitcases, and whether they will change their underwear, wonder too what safety regulations will be in force at your chosen camp.

On March 22 last year, eight pupils, a teacher and two instructors set off to canoe across the bay at Lyme Regis in Dorset. Only four of the teenagers came back alive.

> ‘Some of the instructors are not only unqualified, they even lack training in basic first aid’

Last November, an adventure holiday manager, Vaughan Phillips, was fined £15,000 after Hayley Hadfield, 11, was fatally injured on a night hike.

Toughening-up a child is all very well, but children are facing physical danger because there are no regulations, not even a voluntary code of practice, controlling activity centres. In fact, there are more stipulations covering the setting up of dog kennels. Some instructors are not only unqualified, they even lack training in basic first aid.

A researcher working on BBC2's *On The Line* applied to 20 commercial outdoor centres for a job. None of them bothered to check his qualifications, which were bogus, and six offered him a job without an interview.

Britain has an estimated 3,000 activity centres, where more than two million children each year tackle demanding pastimes such as canoeing, abseiling and climbing. The centres claim to teach children about problem solving, group co-operation, creative thinking and decision-making. So much importance is placed on this type of training that outdoor education forms an integral part of the national curriculum, and many excursions are organised by schools.

Few operators of activity centres are spivs: there is little money to be made in burnt sausages and wet socks. Looking after 50 children on an outdoor experience is more a labour of love than a quick route to a Jaguar and a second home in Gloucestershire. But if your child is injured, the remorse and self-reproach of an enthusiastic amateur is inadequate compensation.

John Patten, the Education Secretary, claimed that the Lyme Regis accident was an "isolated incident" and, although he has been petitioned by the parents of the dead children, he has refused to introduce legislation.

The Department of Education, which has overall responsibility for these centres, has set up a two-year programme of spot checks, but this has been widely condemned as inadequate.

The English Tourist Board (ETB) has made a more determined effort to meet the concerns of parents and teachers. Having set up the UK Activity Centres Accreditation Committee early in 1993, it is now trying to persuade the industry to agree to a comprehensive voluntary code of practice. This would cover issues such as safety, the welfare of participants, management and quality control. Individual sporting activities would be controlled by the appropriate sporting bodies.

"Legislation would take too long," says Mike Richardson, the marketing director of the ETB. "This will be customer-driven. We would like to publish the code of practice in April, then ask activity centres to sign up immediately, and send the code round to schools, who are the principal users of activity centres. By 1995 we would like to be able to say that we only promote centres that have signed up to the code. The problem we still have to solve is how exactly to fund a national body of inspectors."

Until that happens, what efforts can the hapless parent or teacher make to protect their adventurous youngsters? According to Becky Kirkwood, the leisure adviser at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, parents should not be shy about asking questions. "Ask to see written evidence of instructor qualifications, the emergency action plan and affiliation to any sports with governing memberships," she says. "Is there a doctor on call or a resident nurse? What are the staff/pupil ratios? And is there a special 'parent line' to ring in emergencies?"

> ‘If there is no danger there is no fun, but it is sometimes difficult to know how lethal a sport can be’

Parents need to be realistic. If there is no danger at all there is no fun, but it is sometimes difficult to know how lethal a sport can be. Golf, for instance, according to a report by the Safety In Leisure (SAIL) research team, is significantly more dangerous than climbing, sailing or canoeing. And the most dangerous thing of all, they say, is going for a walk.

Last year a group of journalists went on a self-enhancing adventure holiday in New Zealand. We found the white water rafting a doddle and the bungy jumping easy. Both had strict regulations. But when it came to riding they forgot to tell me that my horse had been used as an extra in the film *Willow*, and had been trained to roll over and die whenever it heard a loud bang. After being thrown into the undergrowth for the second time, I began to wish I was still throwing myself off a bridge, where at least I was attached to a piece of elastic.

ALICE THOMSON

DUNCAN MAXWELL



Youngsters are closely supervised by staff as they ford this racing river. Elsewhere, activity centres are being criticised over lax safety standards

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The music of a new age

The 19th century's natural curiosity about the world did not cease when the clock ticked past midnight on December 31, 1900. Advances in technology, improved communications, recording and radio made the world smaller, so historical and geographical influence could be absorbed in Western art music. But the Romantic aesthetic was not suddenly forgotten in the dawning of a new century, as our free CD/cassette, *Modern Times*, this week demonstrates.

Inevitably the producers have had to omit much from the recording; the music of Arnold Schoenberg, for instance, who advanced the changes that Richard Wagner had begun when he challenged the old key system. Our selection concentrates on some of the earlier 20th century's most famous and attractive pieces, now firmly established as classics.

Igor Stravinsky's famous ballets for the Russian impresario Diaghilev, of which *The Firebird*, finished in 1910, was the first, are vivid and evocative, their unmistakable Russian quality inherited from Rimsky-Korsakov. Prokofiev's ballet *Romeo and Juliet*, composed in 1935-36 for the Kirov, comes from the same world, and is a large-scale work full of tellingly effective tunes. Rachmaninov's famous C sharp minor piano prelude of 1892 has a typical Russian grandeur about it. All these composers were to leave Russia because of the Revolution, though Prokofiev later returned.

The French composer Claude Debussy is often described as an impressionist. His "Clair de lune", from the *Suite bergamasque* published in 1905, is a dreamily beautiful work. Later, Debussy drew influences from oriental music, as did Olivier Messiaen, whose music often reflects his preoccupation with birdsong. His "O sacrum convivium" (1937) is a simple yet powerful motet, full of harmonies.

Central European composers such as Béla Bartók drew heavily on the influence of folk music, though Bartók's Viola Concerto, left unfinished at his death in the United States in 1945, is a mature piece without the appealingly rough edges of his most consciously Hungarian works.

American art music is represented in *Modern Times* by the reflective nostalgia of the first movement of Aaron Copland's Clarinet Concerto of 1948. (Its outrageously jazzy finale is a different matter altogether.)

Nostalgia is also part of Edward Elgar's very British music; it is certainly a strong element in the Adagio of his Cello Concerto completed in 1919, though this composer has other sides.

Benjamin Britten could hardly be counted Elgar's successor; his music is too much of its own world for that. His String Quartet No 2 dates from 1945, the year his opera *Peter Grimes* was first seen. The work, an uncompromising story about the victimisation of an outcast, is considered by many to have changed the face of British music.

But we are a broad church, and we also prize conservatives such as Malcolm Arnold, who composes music as substantial as it is attractive. His scintillatingly rowdy *Tam O'Shanter Overture*, written in 1955, is, however, pure entertainment.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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Debussy's "Clair de lune" is featured on our free CD

Modern Times

The recorded playing time of *Modern Times* is 53 minutes, 20 seconds.

1 Stravinsky (1882-1971): *The Firebird*. "Danse infernale". Royal Opera House Orchestra conducted by Barry Wordsworth (4:18).

2 Debussy (1862-1918): "Clair de lune" (*Suite bergamasque*). Piano. Kathryn Stott. (5:17).

3 Elgar (1857-1934): Cello Concerto. Adagio. Cello. Alexander Baillie. BBC Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Edward Downes (4:43).

4 Copland (1900-1990): Clarinet Concerto. 1st movement. Clarinet. Roman Prylinski. Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Ilya Stupel. (6:16).

5 Bartók (1881-1945): Viola Concerto (ed. Serly). 2nd movement: Adagio religioso (excerpt). Budapest Symphony Orchestra conducted by Andras Ligeti. Viola, Rivka Golani (4:20).

6 Britten (1913-1976): String Quartet No 2. 2nd movement: Vivace. The Brindisi String Quartet (3:32).

7 Messiaen (1908-1992): "O sacrum convivium!" The choir of Trinity College, Cambridge, directed by Richard Marlow (4:33).

8 Rachmaninov (1873-1943): Prelude in C sharp minor. Op 3 No 2. Piano, Kathryn Stott (5:11).

9 Prokofiev (1891-1953): *Romeo and Juliet*. "Dance of the Knights". Royal Opera House Orchestra conducted by Barry Wordsworth (6:06).

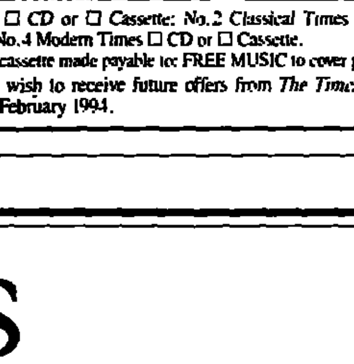
10 Arnold (1921-): *Tam O'Shanter Overture*. Op.54. Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vernon Handley (8:23).



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In the past three weeks we have offered *Baroque Times*, *Classical Times* and *Romantic Times* (if you missed them, see below).

The free recording offered today, *Modern Times*, covers the music of the 20th century and features the works of ten leading composers — Stravinsky, Debussy, Elgar, Copland, Bartók, Britten, Messiaen, Rachmaninov, Prokofiev and Arnold. The high-quality CD/cassette recordings, produced by Conifer Classics, have a playing time of 53 minutes, 20 seconds.



HOW TO GET YOUR FREE CD/CASSETTE

Collect two tokens from *The Times* (five will be printed next week, starting Monday, February 14), and fix them to the coupon below. When you have collected your two tokens, complete the coupon and send it to the address below, with a cheque for £1.98, made payable to FREE MUSIC, to cover the cost of postage and packaging.

● **Send your application to:** *The Times* Classical Collection, PO Box 2002, Romford, Essex. RM3 8GQ. Specify whether you wish to receive *Modern Times* in CD or cassette form. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

● **If you missed Week 1** (*Baroque Times*), **Week 2** (*Classical Times*) and/or **Week 3** (*Romantic Times*) of the collection, don't worry: to get one or all of these, send the coupon with £1.98 p&p for each CD/cassette ordered (cheques made payable to FREE MUSIC).

● **Readers have the option** of collecting their free CD or cassette in person — thus saving the postage and package charge of £1.98 — from the following centres on Friday, Feb 18, 10am-noon and 2-4pm: Global Video, 12-14 Moss Side Road, Shawlands, Glasgow. MFA Ltd, 10 Ashton Gate, Ashton Road, Romford, Essex. R&L, 5 Bishops Road, Cleeve, Bristol. Fox Hayes, Solicitors, Bank House, 150 Roundhay Road, Leeds.

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TO ADVERTISE CALL: 071 481 1982

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

FAX: 071 481 9313

LADIES

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS! (But not O.T.T.!) Are you seeking someone special to fill that void? Then be my Valentine: - ex-fashion model, attractive (some say stunningly so), vivacious, glamorous, sensual, very elegant, 5'6", slim, brunette, intelligent, confident, professional lady with a great zest for living, GSOH, loads of interests. So what's missing? You are! - a successful, professional, dynamic, attractive, (own hair and teeth but no beards!), unattached, tall, n/s, classy male 40-55, living in London, who can make me laugh and who is definitely not boring! Is this too much to ask? If not write and tell me why we should meet with a view to a sharing, caring long term relationship full of T.L.C. P.S. Enclose a recent photograph and a rose too! (Minus thorns please).Box No 5884

ARTISTIC professional lady many interests attractive feminine seeks single soulmate 48-59 who enjoys classical music. Photo please. W. Herts. Please Reply to Box No 6061

ATTRACTIVE middle aged North American woman wishes to correspond with an educated, single Transatlantic traveller with the spirit of adventure of Sir Richard Francis Burton and a love of art, theatre, music, gardening and birds. Please Reply to Box No 6063

ATTRACTIVE elegant widow early 50's interests: reading, music, wildlife, sun, fun and laughter, wishes to make a new start in life with a kind educated gentleman. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 5973

ATTRACTIVE widowed actress currently Warwick based seeks equable ageing sexy (Thesp-friendly) man to form new double act. Reply Box 5980

BEAUTIFUL vivacious charming sensual Libran lady in S.West London with style and a passion for hugs, seeks attractive solvent romantic prof. gentleman 38-48 for candlelit dinners & walks in the park. Photo ensures reply. Box No 5963

BEAUTIFUL intelligent blonde lady 37 sparkling warm personality seeks gorgeous interesting professional man 37-42. Photo please. Reply to Box No 6039

BE my valentine! Vivacious lady accountant lives mid-Kent, adores antiques & country life, seeks a man, 35-48 to be her Valentine every day of the year. If you are romantic, solvent, professional & wish to spoil and be spoiled by an attractive independent woman, send hearts & chocolates to Box No 5994

BRIGHT attractive articulate prof. widow 52 would like to meet similar tallish man with S.O.H. North-West or Cumbria area. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 6026

CHANNEL ISLAND domiciled. Where is my soulmate? I am an elegant 47yr old widow, with varied interests. He will be 40-60, tall, well-spoken n/s, sensuous, longing to pamper his woman and share his life. Please Reply to Box No 6035

CHEERFUL successful intelligent tall attractive woman 38 enjoys politics, science, countryside, dining in or out, laughing, seeks similar man 40+. Oxford area. Please Reply to Box No 5748

CLASSY green-eyed brunette slim very attractive aged 32 bubbly personality with everything to offer the right gentleman seeks genuine handsome professional male for lasting relationship. If you don't usually respond to these then let this be your first. You won't be disappointed! Photo appreciated. Reply please to Box No 5991

CREATIVE, pretty (blue-eyes, dark hair) London-based American (40) with many interests & lots of friends. I'm nice, witty and tolerant and would love to meet an interesting, good-looking man for socialising, the arts and weekends at home and away. If you think we may have something in common, write to me with a photo & tel. No. please. Box No 5924

CURVACEOUS vivacious attractive lady auburn hair and dark brown eyes with a tremendous sense of humour interested in the arts good conversation and socialising. Seeks intelligent stimulating and fun-loving gentleman in late 40's to tip-toe through the tulips with me! Not Amsterdam please. London based. Reply to Box No 5879

DO you enjoy travel, bridge, theatre, cinema, classical music, country walks, live in Bucks/SE are a lively and caring gentleman 45-60 then an attractive divorcee, 50, would like to hear from you, with a recent photo please. Reply please to Box No 6018

EDINBURGH prof. lady slim attractive outgoing SOH looking for happiness with caring uncomplicated tallish gentleman 50-60 Lothians area. Photo appreciated. Box No 5981

ENTICINGLY attractive, warm, prof. 49, 5'6" slim, lively, sensuous, tactile, n/s loves opera, theatre, art, lit., seeks slim, clean-shaven, sensitive, male graduate, 48-58 for sharing & loving Herts/N. London Box 6011

EQUALISER required by attractive, smart, fair-haired, feminine, 34 year old. I've been spending too much time at work and would now very much like to meet a tall, handsome, successful man to have some fun with (especially at weekends). The ability to care & share is important, as is a good sense of humour - stuffy, hidebound types are not really mine. I have many different interests, live in London and am told that I'm very eligible - so where are you? Go on, write to me, make my day! photo & tel no. essential. Reply to Box No 5925

GEMINI woman interested to meet unattached, well-built, tall, urbane man of wisdom, wit, sensitivity & charm. An attractive and stylish independent blonde of 41. I run a demanding design business in north Hampshire. Divorced, no kids, two cats. Wicked sense of humour, very perspicacious - I enjoy good food and fine wines, quick cars, all things of beauty. Your integrity and financial stability a prerequisite - your professional empathy, humour and versatility essential. Your interesting looks advantageous, your age circa 30-50. Feel challenged? Then write with inspiration, photograph (ideally yours) & phone no to Box No 5916

GENTLEMAN holiday companion needed this Spring by feminine, cultured, attractive lady. (Beaulieu, Hants) whose plans have gone awry. Must be fun, well educated n/s, under 65yrs. Photo please. Box No 6054

GENTLE redhead 47, seeks humorous, gentle man! Tall, over 50 - London/SE.Box No 5901

GREEN-EYED, sexy, intelligent and witty literary London-based lady (34) seeks kind, caring professional man (36-45). I love New York, Hampstead Heath, my cat, Northumberland, good food, better wine, stimulating conversation, late night phone calls, and romantic gestures. If this appeals write with photo please to Box No 5956

I live in the NW. I'm 55, attrac. & enjoy all things cultural. I'm looking for a soulmate with GSOH to share the good things in life. Reply with full details & recent photo Box No 5981

INTELLIGENT, attractive, independent woman, 37, smoker, seeks male. Sense of humour, brains, money and a photograph are absolute essentials. London SW area. Age 40-50. Please Reply to Box No 6051

LADY Doctor (36) based in SE Hampshire seeks man with wit intelligence and soul.

MEET Attractive, sexy women, at London Single's parties. Meet 'N' Eat 071 629 5534

MERRY widow elegant witty sincere and loving seeks tall well-educated discerning man of distinction over 55. Please Reply to Box No 6064

OUTGOING attractive lady 48 seeks gent similar for fun travel culture Cumbria Box No 5972

PAINTER C. London 40's and fit, enthusiastic about food, art, music, films and picnics, looking for interesting n/s to enjoy similar and discover more. Please Reply to Box No 5983

PRETTY woman fun-loving gentle Francophile seeks professional man late 30's. Photo perhaps. Reply to Box No 6002

PRICELESS Gem! Attractive lively brunette 23 seeks male 25-38, handsome generous and fun. South-East area. Please reply to Box No 6029

SLIM attractive Piscean 166cm 35 London based seeks n/s honest, reliable, humorous European man 39-44. Box No 6007

SLIM, attractive Law Student 44. E.Midlands, seeks lively caring man under 55 to share life, laughs & love.Box No 6034

STRIKING London redhead 38 no kids no o'draft wants a tall man 50-60 to have adventures with! Photo etc.Box No 6028

STUNNING blond, mid 30's, seeks man for fun, friendship and romance. London. Please Reply to Box No 5999

STYLISH very attractive sensual blonde GSOH likes tennis travel TLC (Kew area) seeks similar solvent tallish very attractive gentleman 37-49 n/s for good times. Recent photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 5962

STYLISH widow 47 tries hard at golf bridge and skiing! Enjoys travel. Would appreciate a like-minded gentleman to possibly share some or all of these activities. S.E. area. Box No 5954

SUSSEX. Town dwelling country lover (tall, slim, stylish, cosmopolitan and fiftyish) full of contradictions and imperfections yet wise and warm-hearted, needs uncomplicated intelligent and fun male chum. Reply to Box No 5933

TALL slim female. Young 49, considered stunning. Independent. Imaginative, sensual, loves reading, films, theatre. Creative career. Sophisticated tastes. Seeks relaxed, preferably London based, male soulmate of depth, humour, positive outlook. Photo please. Reply to Box No 6058

THE fire is glowing, supper smells delicious. Do you enjoy the company of lively, humorous, interesting people and village life. If your're late 40's/50s and live approximately Heart of England, would you like to pour the wine? Reply Box No 6053

UNCONVENTIONAL lively independent lady 40's who dislikes pomposity seeks kind interesting gentleman. S.O.H. essential as is wide set of interests and reasonable prosperity! Kent/Sussex area. Please Reply to Box No 6022

WANTED: belated Valentine aged 30-45 for slim blonde attractive female. You are intelligent creative and maybe on the sensitive side - me: I am 40 and just the same - perhaps we may be suited. To find out write with photo please. London based. Reply to Box No 5986

WARM and affectionate lady, attractive professional, seeks intelligent responsible humorous man 45-65, to share candlelit dinners in and evenings out. Reply Box 6049

WHERE are you Valentine? Attractive bright slender SW1 lady 5'6" green eyes with great sense of fun is looking for a charming confident witty sophisticated unpretentious upmarket gent 50ish to hug for keeps! Reply to Box No 5992

WIDOW, educated, considered attractive, slim, n/s, humorous, uncommitted, varied interests, house, car, seeks soul-mate (45/55), with interesting background. Reply to Box No 6019

WINDSOR wench 46 seeks warrior share walking talking possibly golf and the siege of life. Reply Box No 5978

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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NOTICE TO READERS

The Times cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will.

If you chose to send a photograph we would suggest enclosing a stamped addressed envelope and indicate if you wish the photograph to be returned.

GENTLEMEN

AN OPPORTUNITY not to be missed! We have been retained by one of our members to place this advertisment for him. He is a very successful North West based business man. 41 years old, 6' tall, good looking and great fun with a zest for life. He is looking for a sincere caring confident female with no ties, aged up to 39, preferably without children. Chatty letter and photograph (essential), to Sara Eden Introductions, Eden House, 38 Thames Street, Windsor SL4 1PR.

ARTICULATE amusing well educated man 45 5'7" would love to meet an attractive slim uncomplicated petite lady 30-40 who still knows what good fun is. Essex. Photo please to Box No 6055

ASSERTIVE intelligent male, tall fit affluent 46, seeks imaginative but responsible relationship with a quiet female who prefers him to be boss. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5921

ATTRACTIVE, warm and enterprising lady (45-55) could do much to enhance the life of this tall gentleman late 50's, successful - but now concentrating on enjoying his personal life. Home Counties. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5970

ATTRACTIVE prof man 34 loves going out, travel and good company. Seeks atractive prof lady 25-35 who is looking for something exceptionally different in life. Photo please Box No 6086

BACHELOR, 40 something, GSOH, n/s, interested countryside, good food, travel, theatre, seeks likeminded female. B'ham/Cotswolds. Box 6046

BLOOMSBURY type late 60's London-based widow, interesting, amusing, seeks artistic wife with similar outlook to love and care for. Box No 5985

BUSINESS-MAN 42 with 3 successful companies now has time to play but nobody to play with! Seeks young slim & attractive female for travel fun & romance. Lives East Midlands & London. Reply Box No 5952

CARDIFF based successful businessman, yachtsman, fit, fun and 45 seeks tall unique younger lady to share spring sunshine and beyond. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5998

CHARMING and prof gentleman. Fit, fun, 40's. Seeks company of well-educated lady with class. E. Anglia. Photo please with reply to Box No 6006

CHEERFUL, tall, warm, fit, academic, man 40's, strong character with weaknesses. Seeks intelligent, sensitive woman, perhaps 30's, who believes in herself and life. Children welcome. Reply to Box No 5920

CULTURED Anglo-American gentle man living U.S. and travelling the world but shy and lonely seeks attractive slim oriental girl to share caring and romantic relationship with style, including fine dining, sophisticated luxury and exotic travel. Write with photo please to Box No 5971

DIRECTOR 45 living continent and trying to decide where future lies. Seeks attractive petite lady to help solve the dilemma. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5912

EAST ANGLIAN farmer 54 separated tall romantic sincere & presentable would like to meet lady 44-54 to enjoy the good things of life and to build a long and lasting relationship. Please Reply photo to Box No 6010

GLASGOW businessman tall n/s comfortable life-style no ties loves travel. Seeks elegant lady 40/50 to enjoy what life has to offer. Please reply with photo to Box No 5764

HEALTHY, happy, very solvent man, 44, with interests from music to history seeks intelligent lady to enjoy lifes pleasures with. Mids/East Anglia. Please Reply to Box No 6044

HE is mid-50s, 6ft. professional supposedly attractive, loves country, music, home, God & most people, but lacks attractive warm partner 40-50 to share interests. SOH. Photo/Reply Please to Box No 6050

HUMOROUS, caring, relaxed lady 30-40 sought London man 43, for loving relationship. Interest in good food, travel and history an advantage. Photo please to Box No 6062

IMAGINATIVE, open-minded, widely travelled architect recently retired after distinguished career seeks attractive lady 50+ n/s with a view to friendship and marriage. Would consider move from West Country base. Top references. Variety of interests include arts, astrology, economics, world affairs - almost everything! Replies to all those interested in sending photograph and brief details to Box No 6067

KIND, caring, considerate, successful MD., 52, seeks attractive gregarious, non-career lady with GSOH, aged 40ish, ideally with children. Mid Hants based. Photos please to Box No 5993

LONDON business man 50 5'10" energetic humorous fun fit worldwide traveller successful in all but love seeks slim stylish 35-42 non-smoking lady. Reply to Box No5997

LOVABLE but alone, prof resourceful 52 n/s varied interests seeks lady 40+ for fun friendship & future? S.East. Photo please to Box No 6020

M.A. Cantab., single, 50's, S.E., tall, slim, C.of E., love of lit/music, seeks lady 35-45, not divorcee, warm, attractive, n/s, trad.vals. Box No 5903

NEVER raced or rallied, turn heads with this 1959 prestige model, exc cond, will give loving lady owner years of pleasure. Please Reply Box No 6042

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE area. A small group of civilised single professionals are planning a buffet supper party. If interested call 091-281 6430 after 6 p.m.

OXFORD GRADUATE, wife sadly died aged 34, 3 children boarding, seeks gentle, perceptive, possibly shy Establishment girl 25-35, n.s., believer, who would value the extra love, excitement and treasuring of somebody old enough to be her father but full of go. Georgian house in village. Travel, theatre, Wimbledon. Cautious telephoning first. Nobody need know. Reply to Box No 5918

RED blooded Englishman T.D. & H. 35 East London seeks fit dynamic lady. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 6003

ROMANTIC attractive 39yr old business man, entertaining and intelligent, enjoys active lifestyle with many interests. Seeks bright and interesting partner to open up new horizons. Based Mids/NW. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5979

SINCERE gentlemen 50's 6ft tall own business home and holiday flat many and varied interests wishes to meet energetic fun-loving lady 45-55 with own home and independent means. Friendship and marriage if compatible. Please write in strictest confidence to Box No 5990. Photo appreciated.

SOUTH-EAST man, successful, slim, supportive, SOH and sometimes surprising seeks similar female 35-48 for hugs, humour and to help cure alliteration. Box No 6035

STARTING again after loveless marriage. Sensitive loving Public School man now ready for take-off with lively warm feminine lady 35-45 London/S.E. Photo please to Box No 6060

TALL distinguished looking gent 68, seeks attractive intelligent lady 50-60 for good company. Kent.Reply to Box No 6058

TALL unattached professional, youthful 60s, sympathetic, fit, slim, active, attractive & solvent, seeks intelligent, shapely, articulate, unattached woman, n/s, 50s, for mutual support & companionship. Photos exchanged. Home Counties. Reply to Box No 6004

TALL well-dressed gent mid 60's would like to meet independent affluent lady with a view to marriage. Interests cinema and theatre. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 6037

WANTED: unencumbered, prosperous, humorous n/s woman (28-36) with wide interests, established in mainstream profession (eg. law, medicine, City, business) to join forces with similar bachelor (40's, 5'10, 11st, fit, unbaldy, self-made, well established in creative TV.. graduate. Will exchange photos. Reply Box No 5977

WELL-TRAVELLED American Consultant 40, living in Elizabethan cottage with spider family seeks 2 legged companionship with bright, creative female 30+. Interests include gourmet cooking, city & country excursions, photography. Please Reply to Box No 6036

YOUTHFUL early 50 man cosmopolitan gentle educated man seeks lady for permanent relationship. Interest include opera ballet jazz books. London. S/E. Photo exchange please. Reply to Box No 5922

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The limits on home improvements

Before you stick a giant fish to your chimney, talk to the council


NEIL JORGENSEN

Making a stand: John Gladden outside his house when it was still embellished and, to right, Martin the marlin who started the dispute

The intricacies of local planning are a nightmare. They are frustrating enough, as Raymond Chandler wrote in another context, to "make a bishop kick a hole in a stained-glass window". Not that kicking a hole in a stained-glass window would be a wise response. The window is almost certainly protected under the Town and Country Planning (listed buildings) Act of 1990.

The case of John Gladden has highlighted the restrictions on what we can and cannot do with our own property. Mr Gladden owns a house in St Oswald's Road, Norbury, southwest London, the sort of quiet leafy suburb inhabited by city clerks in P.G. Wodehouse novels. In 1992, Mr Gladden upset Croydon council when he attached a cast of a 14ft marlin named Martin to the side of his house.

When the council ordered the removal of the offending fish, he filled his front garden with an army tank, a 28ft Scud missile, a 17ft dinosaur, a stuffed reindeer, and a 14ft inflatable statue of Winston Churchill. He then fixed a full-size model of a Spitfire fighter plane to his roof.

Croydon council responded with an injunction against the spitfire. Earlier this week, Mr Gladden lost his appeal against the injunction. The menagerie, including the spitfire, is now parked on vehicles in the road. Next week, Mr Gladden expects the result of a planning enquiry on the marlin. Whatever happens, he intends to fight on. "I definitely", he says, "won't let them defeat me."

This is not the first case of a fish causing trouble in a residential street. In 1986, Bill Heine stuck a 20ft fibreglass shark on the roof of his terrace house in Headington, Oxford.

Not all of us share the fondness of Mr Heine and Mr Gladden for things that slither beneath the surface of the sea. However, most at some stage will want to alter the outside of a house. The first thing to establish is what kind of property you own. If it is a listed building, you can do virtually nothing without permission from the council. In this case, it might be more helpful to think of yourself as the curator of a national monument rather than as a homeowner.

Special regulations also apply if you live in a conservation area, a national park, an area of outstanding natural beauty or the Norfolk or Suffolk Broads, it is as well to discuss any changes to the appearance of your house with the local planning office. For the rest of the country there is some leeway. Certain additions to a property can be made without planning permission. You can build a shed, a garage, a swimming pool or a greenhouse unless it covers more than half the area around your house or is closer to a highway than the nearest part of the house. You can also put up a fence or a wall less than one metre high beside a road or two metres elsewhere, unless it affects the neighbours' light.

Whatever you do, it is well to take two precautions: first check with your neighbours and then consult the local planning office. Most councils will give you a Department of the Environment booklet "Planning — a Guide for Householders", a simple key to the planning maze.

If an alteration does require planning permission, you complete an application form provided by the council and return it along with the relevant plans. The fees for dealing with an application can vary, according to Maureen Agnew at Lambeth council, in south London, from £140 for the simplest proposal to £7,000 for a complex supermarket development. It is at this stage that interested parties can present objections.

The council should respond within eight weeks. If the application is rejected, you can appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment, who will open a planning enquiry. This process can take months or even years. The department's decision is final. The only way to reverse it is to question its legal basis through the courts.

In controversial cases, the final decision often comes down to taste rather than law. The inspector assigned to the enquiry on Mr Heine's shark concluded that the point of planning was not to impose a "boring and mediocre uniformity", that there must be "some small space" for the dynamic, the unexpected and the downright quirky.

Most of us have rather more timid aspirations than Mr Heine. In a dull legislation-laden world we want to be sure that we do not have to demolish our new addition and that alterations do not affect our chances of selling the house. There is nothing better guaranteed to deter a buyer than the discovery that there is no planning permission for the loft conversion or for the stuffed shark stuck to the chimney. For much the same reason the estate agents advise painting all walls an inoffensive off-white. Personally, I rather fancy a shark on my roof. Better there than in the bidet.

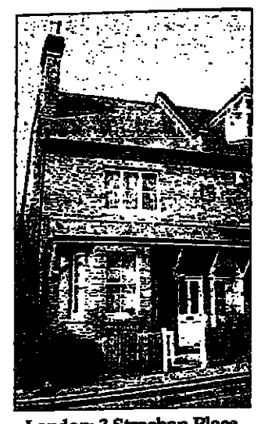
JAMES HEPBURN

● *The booklet "Planning — a Guide for Householders" is available from the planning department of most councils or direct from the Department of the Environment on 0272 218130.*

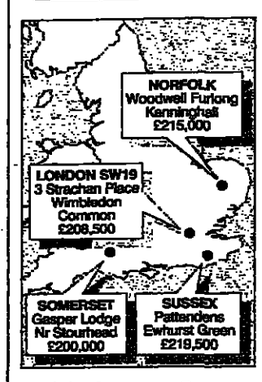


Norfolk: Woodwell Furlong, Church Street, Kenninghall. Grade II listed 17th-century former farmhouse with studio cottage, in 1.3 acres of formal gardens and woodland. Four bedrooms, three bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast-room, conservatory, cellar. Cottage with one bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. About £215,000 (Bedford, 0284 769999).





London: 3 Strachan Place, Wimbledon Common, SW19. End-of-terrace, period house, overlooking Crooked Billet Green. Three bedrooms, dressing-room/baby's bedroom, sitting-room, dining-room, kitchen, conservatory. Front and rear gardens. About £208,500, freehold. (Chesterton's 081-946 5052)



Right: Somerset, Gasper Lodge, near Stourhead. Thatched cottage with gardens adjoining National Trust woodland. Three bedrooms, bathroom, sitting-room, dining-room, kitchen and cloakroom. About £200,000 (Jackson-Stops & Staff, 0935 74066).





Left: East Sussex, Pattendens, Ewhurst Green, Robertsbridge. Grade II listed 18th-century house with landscaped gardens, in picturesque village. Accommodation includes four bedrooms and three reception rooms (with exposed beams). About £219,500 (GA Property Services, 0797 252366).

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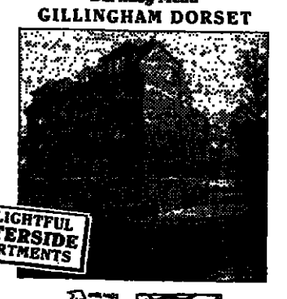
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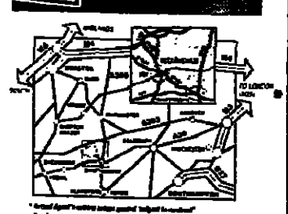
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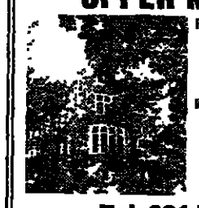
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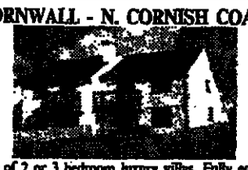


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Island House. 2/3 beds. village outskirts. Main services. Telephone. Furnished. English owner. 25 ft yacht on free mooring included. £90,000 Enquiries to:- Jessica Jones, 6 Dorrick Court, Archers Rd, Southampton, Hants. SO1 2LT. Tel: 0703 636754.



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Large bungalow, 6 acres of land, large building, 3/4 bedrooms 1 ensuite, 2 bathrooms, lounge/conservatory, dining, utility rooms, kitchen, larder, central heating, twin garage, 25 miles Plymouth 18 coast. Peaceful, pleasant, beautiful area to live £210,000.

Phone 0566 772963.



SOUTHERN SPAIN

Detached cottage in half acre plot. Spectacular National Park surroundings and views, 25 mins. Marbella. Walking distance of pretty, unspoilt village. 2/3 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, beamed ceilings, lots of character, well built. 8,500.00 ptas (39,000 pounds).

Tel Malaga (010 34 52)291126 for more information. (9.00-14.00hrs).



OXFORD, WHEATLEY

Detached stone house in quiet village location adjacent St Mary's Church, comprising, Hall, 4 Receptions, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom, 5 Bedrooms (4 double), 2 Bathrooms, *Gas C.H., Alarm, Good size Garden, Detached Double* Garage. Convenient M40/M25. £249,000.

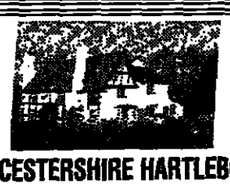
Tel: 0865 872142.



FULHAM

Spacious, attractive family house, 40' west-facing garden close to Hurlingham and Parsons Green. 5/6 beds, double reception; fitted kitchen/ dining room; 1 bath & 2 shower rooms (1 ensuite); basement laundryroom; CH; period features. F/H £310,000.

Tel: 071 736 7869.



WORCESTERSHIRE HARTLEBURY

Tel: 0299 250469 **£345,000**

Crook built 11th/12th century farmhouse set in 1 acre of garden. Spacious country family home. 4 bedrooms. Easy reach of London, Birmingham etc.



CORNWALL FALMOUTH

Harbourside house in quiet town centre position: first floor *lounge overlooking the water*, three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen with dining area, plus ground floor one bedroom flat with kitchen, bathroom and lounge onto harbour patio and private quay; garage: £149,000.

Tel: 0326 318799.



FARINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE

Substantial Victorian residence edge of Market Town £248,000. Entrance hall, three reception rooms, study, cellar, kitchen/breakfast room, five bedrooms (master with en-suite bathroom and dressing room), family bathroom. Mature gardens, double garage.

Tel: 0367-240356



LINCOLNSHIRE VILLAGE PARTNEY SPILSBY

Period family house. Large garden, mostly walled. Grade II listed. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, three reception, inner hall, country kitchen with Aga. Oil fired central heating. £210,000 includes small paddock.

0790 54209 or 52271.



PORTUGAL

LAGOS, ALGARVE Tel (0905) 426914

£198,000 o.n.o.

Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom villa with pool, also 2 bedroom 1 bath self contained apartment attached, regular 7 monthly villa lettings, earnings approx £18,000. ¼ acre landscaped gardens, sea views. Fully furnished. Would consider part exchange in Worcestershire area.



LINCOLNSHIRE

Only £950,000 **Tel 0602 534801/ 0850 385830**

Ashby Hall. Steeped in history. Presently used as a country club. Extensive grounds approx 7 acres. including 3 acre lake. Untapped potential. Superb stable complex with residential potential. Main building would convert to H.Q. Many other possibilities.



FRANCE NR FONTAINEBLEAU

Charming fully-converted beamed cottage in country SE of PARIS, 60m by train/car. 4 bedrooms, large farmhouse kitchen, sitting room, dining room, 3 bathrms, laundry, storeroom, workshop, *separate studio in walled garden.* Easily let. £98,000

Tel 010 33 1 60 96 72 32.



CARDIFF

15th Cent. Grade 2 Glamorgan great house 4 recs, beamed, open fireplaces, 6 beds, 2 baths, ½ acre secluded garden. 4 miles City Centre. 1 mile M4. With 3 recs, 3 beds, 2 bath Cottage. Circa £325,000. Would separate.

Tel: (0222) 626185



KENT SITTINGBOURNE

Detached executive residence 'Georgian' unique interior. £225,000. Double bedrooms three/ four/ study, two ensuite large family bathroom. Country kitchen/ breakfast room, lounge, dining room, large conservatory. Large hall landing GCH. DG. M2 M20 channel tunnel, London BR close.

Tel 0795 427326.



CHESHIRE, STOCKTON HEATH

Modern four-bedroomed house in pleasant Appleton Park. Manchester Airport 20 minutes drive. Hall, cloaks/WC, large lounge, separate dining, *kitchen/breakfast, utility, bathroom, en-suite shower* room, double garage, garden chalet, lawns. £155,000.

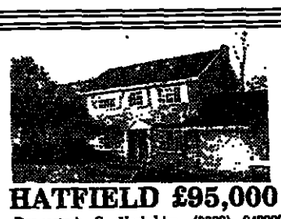
Tel 0925 265285.

SUTTON VALENCE, KENT



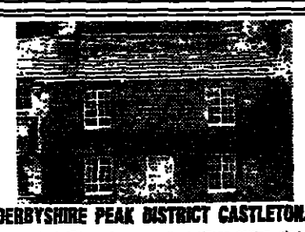
Terraced Victorian cottage. Beautiful panoramic wealden views. £75,000. Central heating, *open fireplace, small* garden, two double bedrooms, bathroom, lounge & compact kitchen. Ideal weekend retreat in peaceful village or commuter base for London (Headcom 10 mins, London 1 hour).

Tel (0634) 6834191.



HATFIELD £95,000

(Nr Doncaster), S. Yorkshire. (0302) 842907. A superbly appointed individually built detached residence. 4 double bedrooms, spacious bathroom, 264ft. square lounge, cloakroom/W.C., dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, vestibule. Double garage, large, private grins; enclosed at rear. Situated in attractive *rural village, close to amenities, access motorways.*



DERBYSHIRE PEAK DISTRICT CASTLETON.

Semi-detached 17th cent stone cottage village setting, glorious views. £145,000 ono. Three double bedrooms, bathroom, hallway, lounge, dining, kitchen, utility room. One acre garden by river with famous 'Rudest Wall'. Double parking area.

Tel: 0433 620689



COTSWOLD STOURTON

Detached 16th century listed thatched house in Cotswold village of Stourton near Chipping Norton. Oak beams, Inglenook fire places. 2/3 bedrooms, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, CH, garden. Close to M40. £115,000.

(0608) 641087 day, (0608 75) 205 eve.



S.W. FRANCE

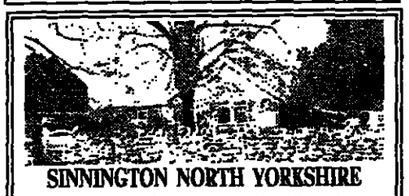
Luxury bungalow 1991, delightful village near Carcassonne. Own vineyard: Total land 3004m². 11 metres swimming pool, terraces, landscaped garden, automatic watering. 3 bedrooms built-in wardrobes, 4th bedroom/ study, lounge, dining kitchen, bathroom, *shower room, garage. Magnificent views £135,000.*

Tel (01033) 68 91 66 61.



Mews house 100yds Marylebone High ST. beautifully modernised over 3 floors. 3 beds, large receptipn, luxury fitted kitchen/dining room, laundry room, 2 bathrooms (1 en suite), gas CH, rented integral garage. £299,500. No chain.

Tel: 071 229 4752.



SINNINGTON NORTH YORKSHIRE

Detached three bedroon Bungalow. Built 1974. Double glazed throughout. Full central heating. showeroom & bathroom. Large south facing lounge. Picturesque village in National park 30 miles north of York. Offers in excess of £125,000.

Tel 0751 431764.



GUERNSEY ST PETER PORT

Investment opportunity. Large open market character property on four floors offered for sale with life enjoyment for the vendors in their late 70's and 80's. 6 bedrooms, garage, gardens. £200,000 .

Tel: 0737 813006 day or evening.



AEGEAN ISLAND VILLA

Spacious secluded seafront house with luxury self-contained apartment for letting income, situated in 1¼ acre landscaped garden. Breathtaking views. 4/5 bedrooms, salon, dining room, 3 bathrooms, kitchen. Athens 45 mins. fully furnished £275,000.

Tel 0284 750374.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE LONGDON

Charming 200 year old detached black and white cottage. Peaceful rural location, with wonderful views of the Malverns. 2 bedrooms, large garden with outbuildings and 30 foot garage. Suit retired *couple or as weekend retreat.* £150,000.

Tel 0684 833204.

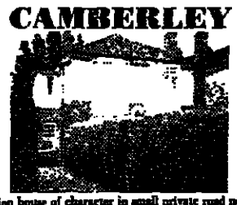


HOYLAKE WIRRAL

Superb detached family house, uninterrupted sea views, 4/5 bedrooms, lounge, dining, snooker room, luxury kitchen, *utility and conservatory, stunning bathroom with jacuzzi and* power shower, two garages, easily maintained landscaped gardens. No chain. Bargain at offers over £159,950.00

051 647 9181

CAMBERLEY



Edwardian house of character in small private road near town centre. Many original features. Good decorative order. Five bedrooms (4 doubles). 3 reception, kitchen, utility room, garage. GFCH. Within easy walk of station. Small garden front and rear. £175,000.

Further details 071 631 3115.

NORWICH

Handsome 1978 built. Architect designed detached family house in premier location off Unthank Road. Traditional construction, gas central heating, double glazing, cavity insulation. 22 ft lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Colourful gardens. Double garage. Carpets included at £195,000.

(0603) 620551

TYNEMOUTH. South East Northumberland.

Attractive Property in prime residential area containing Entrance Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, 4-Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage. Garden. Gas Central Heating. Double Glazing. 350-yds to Sea-front. ¾ miles to Village and Metro Station. £160,000.

Tel 0670 516123.

TOBERMORY

Late 19th century country house, 35 acre woodlands. Trout stream. Outstanding views over Sound of Mull, Morvern and Ardnamurchan. Central heating. Spacious hall, Three Reception rooms, Nine *bedrooms, Seven Bathrooms, Kitchen, Four Utility* rooms. Stable block. c.£350,000.

Tel 0688 2425

WEST MIDLANDS

Dignified Detached Residence, prime location, convenient Wolverhampton/Birmingham conurbation. 17th century origins, Victorian additions, much old oak, immense panel character. 3 Receptions, Kitchen (Aga), 6 bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms. Outbuildings, approx half acre, swimming pool. £375,000.

(0902) 773322

SKEWEN WEST GLAMORGAN

Tastefully modernised Victorian terraced house. Lounge, dining room. large kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, toilet, gas C.H., garage, greenhouse. Organically managed garden. Convenient M4, Gower Peninsula, West Wales, Brecon Beacons £43,000

Tel 0792 814938

WEST SUSSEX: WOODEND, WEST STOKE

Imaginative conversion of 1820's cobb on small private estate just of South Downs, adjoining farmland 7 close Kingley Vale Nature Reserve, yet only 4 miles Chichester. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, ext. elegant new conservatory, double garage, small garden. £250,000.

Tel: 0243 572294

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PAINSWICK

Converted water mill retaining working water wheel, 360yds. river frontage, ¾ acre stocked trout lake & garden totalling 2 acres. Accommodation: Magnificent sitting room, dining room, fitted solid oak kitchen, utility, W.C., three beds, two baths, double garage, immaculate throughout.

£350,000.

Tel 0452 813977.

LONDON E18

Victorian detached house, 6 bedrooms, 4 reception rooms, large kitchen, 2 bathrooms and shower room. Self contained annexe. 60ft. frontage large south facing garden, *double garage.* Convenient for shops, schools and underground. £295,000

Tel: 081 989 4388

HAMPSHIRE, FORDINGBRIDGE

Cottage style maisonette to listed building in village on edge of New Forest overlooking River Avon. Two bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, kitchen/ dining area, large hallways, oak beams, leaded windows. Would make ideal holiday home. £63,000 leasehold.

Contact Tel: 071 724 1803.

CHISWICK

A three storey Town House built two years ago within this award winning Private Development, Four Bathrooms, Three Bathrooms, Full width First Floor Drawing Room, Kitchen, Dining Room, Garage, OSP, Large South facing Landscaped Garden. Freehold Price: £335,000

Tel: 081-995 1201

The perfect place to be seduced

As St Valentine's Day approaches, our thoughts turn to romance. Where better to tryst than in a secluded arbour

What day could be better than St Valentine's for the planning of a voluptuous garden arbour, a trysting place, set about with every perfumed plant and rippling with summer humours? Every gardener should have one. Impetuous youth may not have the patience to plan a great romantic moment, but gardeners know what patience is, and with skill can create an arbour fit to worry the libido.

A seat comes first. Let it be a curved, intimate seat, and not a park bench. Benches are for inmates, not lovers. And let it be a deep seat, one on which you can put a generous array of dark cushions and still have room to sit. It must be a seat for two people only; no one else will be welcome.

And over the seat is built an arbour of wood, with a solid back and roof, and trellis-work sides. The roof inside is painted midnight blue, and dotted with silver stars and a golden moon. The whole arbour is swagged with climbers, twisting through the trellis and trailing down over the entrance. On one side are summer jasmine and roses, for perfume. On the other is the purple-leaved vine or "Teinturier Grape", and to run amongst it the small, velvety purple flowers of the clematis 'Royal Velours'. And hops. There is nothing so fecund as swags of hops in flower, and issuing from them that gently bitter, leafy tang.

All these will wrap around and enclose the arbour, like ivy trails across the mouth of a cave. But how to approach the arbour? A romantic arbour cannot be placed around some scruffy little corner out of sight. The pleasure of indulging a careful seduction is in its gradual inevitability, and so should this arbour be the climax of a tantalising vista.

Real teasers might place it at the end of a zig-zag path, but I would prefer to make the path straight and to mark the stages of the progress down its length with pairs of perfumed plants.

I should flank my path with dark coloured borders and plant into them pairs of white-flowered perfumed plants which would stand out by moonlight. Then there would be philadelphus and white rugosa roses, groups of regale lilies and the tall tobacco, Nicotiana sylvestris, which smells so much stronger at night. Low pots might be planted with petunias, and grouped in threes, alongside pools of the old clove pink 'Mrs Sinkins'.

Though not white, there would be bedded groups of the incense plant, Humea elegans. A favourite centrepiece in Victorian bedding schemes, it throws up great plumes to head height of old beige lace, and the perfume is like nothing else — strong, spicy and strange. At the back of the border there could be room for Cestrum parqui, a visually unprepossessing shrub but whose small yellow trumpets hold a heady perfume.

At the far end of the path, in the arbour itself, there might be a candle or two, in a wall sconce or on a hefty, floor-standing, wooden candle stick. There would certainly be no electric light. And no table; this is not a conference. If drinks are to be ready and waiting, a bottle and two glasses can stand beside the seat on the floor. (Lovers are unmoved by dry white wine: this is Kummel, all fire and ice, with the rime still on the bottle.)

In another climate one might require cicadas, but here will be only the cry of an owl and the deep, muffled silence of the small hours. Leaves rustle, as silk would, sliding to the floor.

STEPHEN ANDERTON

NATIONAL TRUST/NICK MEERS



THE beautiful arbour above stands in the National Trust gardens of Moseley Old Hall, in Staffordshire. The gardens have been planted with flowers, trees and shrubs known to have been popular when Charles II hid in the hall after the battle of Worcester in 1651. The garden is filled with the scents of honeysuckles, old roses and herbs. Among its herbaceous plants is Cupid's Dart (*Catananche caerulea*), once used in love potions, *Susan MacDonald writes*.

The *Collins English Dictionary* defines an arbour as a leafy glade or bower, but the National Trust has taken its design of shaped timber from an arbour in Thomas Hills' *A Gardener's Labyrinth* of 1577. The approach is through a wrought-iron gate, a copy of a mid-17th-century design, and the plants that have been chosen are perfect for trysting. The frame is covered with Virgin's Bower (*Clematis flammula*) for the beautiful perfume its small flowers emit. Clematis viticella for the deep purple colour of its many flowers and Teinturier Grape (*Vitis vinifera 'Purpurea'*) with its heavy bunches of claret grapes (which have been turned into wine during hot summers) and the purple colour of its leaves in autumn.

Old English Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) lines its path on both sides, softening its borders and giving off their perfume when people brush by.

THE TIMES FRENCH GARDEN can be seen as part of the International Spring Gardening Fair at Olympia W14 from March 31 to April 4, 9.30am to 6.30pm Thursday to Sunday, and 9.30am-5pm on Monday. Tickets: £9 adults, £3 children. £20 family ticket admits two adults and three children under 16. £5 afternoon ticket after 2pm. Ticket hotline: 071-373 8141

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Continue planting fruit trees and bushes, preparing the ground first, removing all weeds and adding bonemeal to the soil.*
- *Prune winter flowering jasmine* (Jasminium nudiflorum) *after the flowers have faded.*
- *Divide clumps of snowdrops and replant when the flowers have faded but while leaves green.*
- *Plant de Caen anemone corms and begin planting shallots so long as the ground is not frozen or sodden.*

F.G.

Putting down strong roots

A selection of gardening goods to help your plants get off to a fine and healthy start this spring



Rootrainer: a helping hand

THERE comes a day about this time of year, when the seedling leaves of weeds and self-sown annuals tell you that the plant life is into action. Although it is too early to start sowing out of doors, there is plenty of opportunity to make indoor sowings in the greenhouse or on window sills.

New-style seed raising trays called Rootrainers which consist of rows of deep cells which fit into a frame are one of the best innovations in seed raising. They are easy to use and, in my greenhouse, produced far stronger plants than seeds raised in conventional and modular trays. The Rootrainer cells have furrowed sides which guide the roots downward, and slits which encourage strong dense root growth. Each row of cells opens on a hinge so as to cause the least possible damage to the young plant when transplanting.

Two Rootrainer sizes are available to domestic gardeners, the larger, with a depth of 12cm/5in (£5.75 per reusable pack of 32 cells), is suited to sweet peas, runner beans and tomatoes, the smaller size (8cm/3in £5.55) suits perennials, lettuces, bedding plants, and fuchsia cuttings. (Available from Ronaash Ltd, Kersquarter, Kelso, Roxburghshire TD5 8HH and through some mail order catalogues.)

This year will find more plug and mini-pot plants on sale both from the mail order companies and from garden centres, easing the cost of plants for gardeners who do not have the time or opportunity for seed raising. As a rough guide, the smaller the plant the more looking after it needs, but experimenting with pelargoniums of different sizes from different sources, I found that the tiniest seedlings did well and caught up with the larger (more expensive) ones. Pelargonium seed is very small and expensive and not easy to grow without fairly controlled conditions so this is a useful and reasonably economical short cut to impressive pots and tubs.

Nowadays it is not always easy to find vegetable seedlings at local stores and markets, but Marshalls of Wisbech is providing vegetable plantlets on the same basis as bedding and container plants. They are offering well-rooted plugs of six kinds of vegetable in packs of ten from £1.85 to £2.25. Readers who want to try out three of these (broccoli Mercedes, Brussels sprout Peer Gynt and autumn cabbage Castello) should send £4.85 to Marshalls (The Times Introductory Vegetables) Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2RF. These are aimed particularly at the beginner with a small garden who would like to try a few vegetables but needs help to get started.

RECORD rainfall during autumn and winter may encourage the mollusc population to even further excesses, but the arrival of Nemaslug, a biological control of slugs promises a specific and environmentally sound means of relief. It works by augmenting the numbers of an indigenous namatode (a microscopic worm) and can be watered into the soil around young plants at their most vulnerable time — when they are planted outdoors or sending up new leaves.

Nemaslug is available in midspring direct from the biological pest control company Defenders (£12.99 Freepost, PO Box 131, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5BR) or through garden centres under the Zeneca (ICI) Nature's Friends scheme, where you buy a box containing instructions and a pre-paid card which you send off to receive the appropriate biological control.

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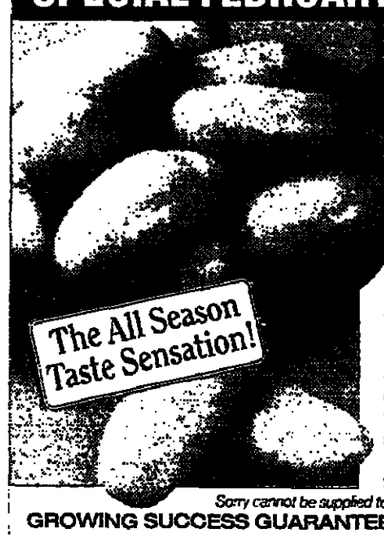
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FILMS

NEW RELEASES

ETHAN FROME: Over-polite version of Edith Wharton's grim novel of thwarted love, with Liam Neeson, Patricia Arquette and Joan Allen. Director, John Madden. **NFT** (071-928 3232)

FREE WILLY (U): Tearaway kid finds his soulmate: a surly amusement-park whale. Family film that aims low and hits. Simon Wincer directs. **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3303) **Warner** (071-439 4343)

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER (15): Father and son share a prison cell. Powerful, urgent film inspired by the Guildford Four stars Daniel Day-Lewis and Pete Postlethwaite; director, Jim Sheridan. **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Plaza** (0800-888 997) **Screen/Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3303) **Warner** (071-439 4343)

THE THREE MUSKETEERS (PG): Noisy, youthful and empty new version of Dumas's tale, with Kiefer Sutherland, Charlie Sheen and Chris O'Donnell. Director, Stephen Herek. **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332) **Warner** (071-439 4343)



Pete Postlethwaite from *In the Name of the Father*

CURRENT

THE AGE OF INNOCENCE (U): Scorsese's spellbinding, heartfelt version of Edith Wharton's novel about stifled love in old New York. With Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer and Winona Ryder **Odeon Leicester Square** (0426 915683)

ALADDIN (U). Disney's brash Arabian cartoon does not match expectations, though Robin Williams's Genie is fun. Directors, John Musker, Ron Clements. **Electric** (071-792 2020/0328) **MGMs: Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

BHAJI ON THE BEACH (15): Laboured, well-meaning ethnic comedy about Asian women on a day trip to Blackpool. Director, Gurinder Chadha. **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Plaza** (0800 888997)

THE BLUE KITE: Tian Zhuangzhuang's powerful, beautiful study of one family's travails in post-war China **ICA** (071-930 3647)

BODIES, REST & MOTION (15): A likable cast, but a hollow film about rootless lives. Michael Steinberg directs Bridget Fonda, Tim Roth, Eric Stoltz. **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Renoir** (071-837 8402)

CARLITO'S WAY (18): Can Al Pacino's gangster go straight? Lively ethnic-flavoured drama from Brian De Palma, with Sean Penn and Penelope Ann Miller. **Empire** (0800 888911) **MGMs Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

THE CONFORMIST (18): Bertolucci's spellbinding version of Moravia's novel about a professor sucked into 1930s Fascism, made in 1969. With Jean-Louis Trintignant, Dominique Sanda. **Everyman** (071-435 1525) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148)

DECADENCE (18): Steven Berkoff's play about 1980s greed makes wearisome cinema. Berkoff directs, and co-stars with Joan Collins **MGM Piccadilly** (071-437 3561)

FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE (15): Chen Kaige's Cannes prizewinner: a bumper bundle of dazzling visuals, Peking Opera, and Chinese history. With Leslie Cheung and Gong Li **Chelsea Cinema** (071-351 3742) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Renoir** (071-837 8402)

HEAVEN AND EARTH (15): A Vietnam peasant girl's war experiences, clumsily translated by Oliver Stone. With Hiep Thi Le and Tommy Lee Jones. **Warner** (071-439 4343)

THE HOUR OF THE PIG (15): Medieval romp with serious twinges, would better suit television. With Colin Firth, Nicol Williamson; director, Leslie Megahey. **Barbican** (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Panton Street** (071-930 0631)

MANHATTAN MURDER MYSTERY (PG): Woody Allen and Diane Keaton turn amateur sleuths. Benign, frivolous comedy with Alan Alda and Anjelica Huston. **Camden Plaza** (071-485 2443) **Gate** (071-727 4043) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Minema** (071-235 4225) **Odeons: Haymarket** (0426-915 353) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098)

MENACE II SOCIETY (18): Drugs, sex and relentless violence in Los Angeles' black ghetto. Unedifying directing debut by 20-year-old twins, Allen and Albert Hughes. **Electric** (071-792 2020/0328) **MGM Panton Street** (071-930 0631)

MRS DOUBTFIRE (12): Divorced dad gets hired as the family's housekeeper. Indulgent, crude but funny vehicle for Robin Williams. With Sally Field and Pierce Brosnan. Director, Chris Columbus. **Barbican** (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Notting Hill Coronet** (071-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** (0426-915 574) **Screen/Baker** (071-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

A PERFECT WORLD (15): Kevin Costner's criminal on the run with a kidnapped child, and Clint Eastwood in pursuit. Thoughtful if overstretched drama; Eastwood also directs. **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

THE PIANO (15): Jane Campion's magnificent tale of repression and desire in mid-19th century New Zealand. With Holly Hunter, Sam Neill, Harvey Keitel. **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279) **Plaza** (0800 888997)

PROVIDENCE (15): Alain Resnais's elegant enigma of 1977, with John Gielgud as the dying writer weaving his family (Dirk Bogarde and others) into his fiction. **MGM Swiss Centre** (071-439 4470)

RAINING STONES (15): Wonderful slice of life on a Catholic council estate. Director Ken Loach blends biting humour and raw pain. Endearing performances from local talent. **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527)

THE REMAINS OF THE DAY (U): Life and lost chances of an English butler. Merchant Ivory's immaculate if chilly account of Kazuo Ishiguro's novel with Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson. **Curzons: Mayfair** (071-465 8865) **West End** (071-439 4805) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (071-586 3057)

THE SECRET GARDEN (U): Agnieszka Holland's polished version of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic. With Kate Maberly and Maggie Smith. **Warner** (071-437 4343)

STRANGER THAN PARADISE (15). Laconic tale of the American dream. Jim Jarmusch's first feature, still bracing today. With John Lurie, Eszter Balint. **MGM Swiss Centre** (071-439 4470)

TOMBSTONE (15): Unremarkable return to the OK Corral, with Kurt Russell (Wyatt Earp) and Val Kilmer (Doc Holliday). George P. Cosmatos directs. **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **West End** (0426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

LES VISITEURS (15): Crude, raucous time-travelling comedy, a huge hit in France. With Christian Clavier, Jean Reno. Director, Jean-Marc Poiré. **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Plaza** (0800 888997) **Screen on the Hill** (071-435 3366) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

WAYNE'S WORLD 2 (PG). The dude duo mount a rock concert. Silly but sweet comedy sequel, with Mike Myers and Dana Carvey. Director, Stephen Surjik. **MGMs Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Empire** (0800 888911) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)



Nadim Sawalha (left) and Kevork Malikyan star in *Waiting for Godot* (see Theatre)

THEATRE

LONDON

AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY: Felicity Kendal plays a harassed wife and Griff Rhys Jones a frantic bachelor, in Peter Hall's most enjoyable production of Feydeau's *Le Dindon*. **Globe**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

AND WOMEN MUST WEEP: Four short plays by Schnitzler, set in a Viennese boarding-house, newly translated for this enterprising company. **Greenwich Studio Theatre**, Prince of Orange, Greenwich High Road, SE10 (081-858 2882). Tues-Sun, 8pm. Until Mar 13

ANORAK OF FIRE: Stephen Dinsdale's hilarious but also touching account of a trainspotter's obsession stars James Holmes as the dedicated hero. Final week. **Arts**, Great Newport St, WC2 (071-836 2132). Tues-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 6pm.

APRIL IN PARIS: Gary Olsen and Maria Friedman in John Godber's simplistic play about the benefits of travel. **Ambassadors**, West Street, WC2 (071-836 6111). Tues-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm and Sun, 4pm.

THE CARETAKER: National Theatre of Craiova play a lightning visit to London with a highly physical production of Pinter. Performed in Romanian. **Watermans**, Brentford High St (081-568 1176). Today, 7.30pm.

CURSE OF THE WEREWOLF: See a man change into a savage brute before your very eyes! New thriller by Ken Hill, who brought us *The Invisible Man*. **Theatre Royal**, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (081-534 0310). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats (in March) Thurs and Sat, 2pm. Until Mar 19.

DEAD FUNNY: Terry Johnson's complex (perhaps too much so) web of connections between sexually arrested comics and their equally afflicted admirers. With Zoë Wanamaker and David Haig. **Hampstead**, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm.

ENDGAME: Peter Bourke and John Quentin play Hamm and Clov in a rare Beckett revival: the original dustbin play. **BAC Studio 2**, Lavender Hill, SW11 (071-223 2223). Previews Tues and Wed, 7.30pm. Opens Thurs, 7.30pm. Then Tues-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun 5.30pm. Until Mar 13.

GORMENGHAST: The David Glass Ensemble offer a strikingly staged version of the Mervyn Peake novel. Final week. **Lyric**, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (081-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

KIT AND THE WIDOW: JANUARY SALE: Suave and stinging, the musical satirists pass comment on the social scene with their familiar skill. **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat 6pm and 8.30pm.

THE KITCHEN: Stephen Daldry's in-the-round Wesker. The stalls will not be in use, there is seating on the stage at Dress Circle level, and a kitchen on scaffolding in between, with 30 chefs rushing manically about. **Royal Court**, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens Feb 22, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat (from Feb 26), 3.30pm.

THE LIFE OF GALILEO: David Hare's new version of Brecht. Richard Griffiths plays the worldly-wise scientist hamstrung by the Inquisition **Almeida**, Almeida St, N1 (071-359 4404). Previews, 8pm. Opens Wed, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until Mar 31.

MACHINAL: Fiona Shaw is a moving heroine in Sophie Treadwell's expressionist drama from 1928. **National** (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight to Tues, 7.30pm; mats today and Tues, 2.15pm.

THE MADNESS OF ESME AND SHAZ: New Sarah Daniels play: God sends a troublesome niece to disturb the retirement years of a woman who would rather be learning the piano. **Theatre Upstairs**, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 2554). Previews, 7.45pm. Opens Tues, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Sat (from next Sat), 4pm. Until Mar 5.

THE NEW MENOZA. First in the Gate's season of 18th-century "Age of Un-Reason" drama: Jacob Lenz's hero is an oriental traveller trying to apply good sense to the manic crises of a small German town. **Gate**, Pembridge Rd, W11 (071-229 0706). Previews Mon and Tues, 7.30pm. Opens Wed, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Mar 19.

SCHIPPEL, THE PLUMBER: Revival of Jeremy Sams' joyous production of Stemheim: a snobbish vocal quartet is obliged to cross class barriers to recruit a vital tenor. James Saxon leads the almost unchanged cast. **Greenwich**, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Sat, 2pm. Until Feb 26.

SEPTEMBER TIDE: Daphne du Maurier's drama of inappropriate passion. With Susannah York. **Comedy**, Panton St, SW1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed 3pm and Sat 4pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: New Michael Hastings drama, set in 1940 among a group of aristocrats nervously awaiting Hitler's invasion. Philip Voss and Toby Stephens head an excellent cast. **Pit**, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm.

WAITING FOR GODOT: Beckett set in a desert in the Levant and performed by two Middle East actors. Co-production with Theatre Royal, Plymouth. **Lyric Studio**, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (081-741 8701). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Sat, 4.30pm. Until Mar 5.

WICKED, YAAR!: Opening venue for the National Theatre's educational tour of Garry Lyons's bhangra-pulsing play about British Asians. **Watermans**, Brentford High Road (081-568 1176). Tues to next Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and next Sat, 2.30pm.

REGIONAL

BARNET: The start of a national tour for Cindy Oswin's *Paper Walls*, a drama about three women who



Joyce Henderson (left) and Jan Pearson, *Paper Walls*

are prisoners in their own home. With Christine Entwisle, Joyce Henderson and Jan Pearson. Directed by Alice Power and Alice Purcell. **Old Bull Arts Centre**, 68 High Street (081-449 0048), Fri and next Sat, 8pm.

BIRMINGHAM: Gerard Murphy stars in Tourneur's *The Atheist's Tragedie*. Anthony Clark directs only the second revival this century. **Birmingham Rep**, Centenary Square (021-236 4455). Previews, 7.30pm. Opens Tues, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm, Feb 26, 3pm. Until Mar 5.

COVENTRY: *Measure For Measure*. Cheek By Jowl begins its latest national tour here. **Arts Centre**, University of Warwick (0203 524524). Wed to next Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

DERBY: Mark Clements's production of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, where 18th-century villainy corrupts innocence. With designs by Steven Richardson. **Playhouse**, Eagle Centre (0332 363275). Opens Fri, 8pm, Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm, mat Mar 12, 2.30pm. Until Mar 19.

PLYMOUTH: Jane Howells and Robert Dawes play the unlikely mid-life lovers who first meet in a swimming pool in William Humble's comedy *How Was It For You?* **Drum Theatre**, Royal Parade (0752 267222). Preview Wed, 7.45pm. Opens Thurs, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.45pm. Until Mar 5.

SHEFFIELD: The Chicago-based Stepperwolf company brought *The Grapes of Wrath* to the National five years ago. Now Michael Rudman directs this epic work, with Bill Stewart, Charlotte Cornwell, Patrick O'Kane and plenty of Cajun and Blue Grass music. **Crucible**, Norfolk Street (0742 769922). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens Feb 22, 7.30pm. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Mar 2 and 12, 2.30pm. Until Mar 12.

DANCE

IREK MUKHAMEDOV AND COMPANY: The Covent Garden ballet star brings his own troupe of dancers to Sadler's Wells for its London debut. The highlight of this short season is a new version of *Othello*, choreographed by Kim Brandstrup for Mukhamedov and featuring dancers of the Arc company. The second half of the programme is made up of short works, including another world premiere in the form of *Two Dances*, a new pas de deux by Michael Corder for Lesley Collier and Paul Chalmer set to music by Poulenc. Mukhamedov is partnered by the divine Miyako Yoshida in Balanchine's *Tarantella* pas de deux and Vaganova's *Diana and Actaeon*. **Sadler's Wells**, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), today, 7.30pm.

DANCE BITES. The Royal Ballet brings its new, small-scale touring company to Blackpool, the last stop on its 1994 regional tour. Covent Garden's resident company is fielding two dozen dancers who are performing a repertoire that includes the aggressively physical *Herman Schmerman*, a big hit at the Royal Opera House, and new ballets from young house choreographers William Tuckett and Matthew Hart. The highlight, though, is Ashley Page's *Renard*, a new piece set to the Stravinsky score and designed by the bold Scottish artist Bruce McLean. **Grand Theatre**, 25 Church Street, Blackpool (0253 28372). Mon, 8pm, Tues, 1.30pm, 8pm.

SPRING LOADED: The Place Theatre's annual festival of British independent dance is staging its eighth — and biggest — season this year. For the next 12 weeks, new works will be shown by 40 companies, from dependable fixtures like the Cholmondeleys and Yolande Snaith to newcomers like Li La Dance Theatre and Company Skin. Influences range from Noh theatre to South Asian dance, juggling to the paintings of Edward Hopper. Check theatre for programme details. **The Place**, Duke's Road, London WC1 (071-387 0031).

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

NORTHERN LIGHTS: Manchester's celebration of its tradition as a centre of musical creativity continues. Among the highlights this week are a concert of music by Nigel Osborne (Sinfonia II) and Bartok (Violin Concerto), given by the Chetham's Symphony Orchestra under Diego Masson (RNCM, Thurs, 7.30pm); a lunchtime recital by the RNCM Wind Ensemble of contemporary works by Anthony Gilbert, John Casken and Martin Butler (Studio 7 Concert Hall, Fri, 1.05pm); and another concert at the RNCM (Fri, 7.30pm) in which Sir Peter Maxwell Davies conducts the BBC Philharmonic in his own *Caroline Mathilde Suite No 2* and *Strathclyde Cello Concerto No 2* (with Ralph Kirshbaum the soloist) and in music by Stravinsky (*Agon* and *Movements for Piano and Orchestra*). **Box Office Information**: RNCM (061-273 4504); Studio 7 Concert Hall (061-200 2001)

OPERA

TURANDOT. Innovative American producer Christopher Alden directs WNO's new staging of Puccini's grandest opera. American soprano Mary Jane Johnson makes her WNO debut as the cruel princess, Edmund Barham sings Calaf; and the cast also includes Patricia Racette (another WNO debutante) as Liù, and John Connell as Timur. WNO's music director, Carlo Rizzi, conducts. **New Theatre**, Park Place, Cardiff (0222 3948441), today, 7.15pm.

CHERUBIN. Tim Albery makes his Covent Garden directorial debut with the British stage premiere of Massenet's comedy, which continues the story of Cherubino after the end of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. Mario Bernardi, principal conductor of the CBC Vancouver Symphony, is a last-minute substitute in the pit, following Gennadi Rozhdestvensky's withdrawal due to "irreconcilable artistic differences". The cast includes Susan Graham, Angela Gheorghiu, Fiona Kimm and Robert Lloyd. **Royal Opera House**, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), Mon, 7.30pm.

THE TURN OF THE SCREW. This new production of Britten's concise and effective treatment of Henry James's chiller is presented by Scottish Opera but performed in the grimly atmospheric location of the Tramway. The acclaimed theatre director David Leveaux is responsible for the staging. Philip Salmon sings Peter Quint, Anne Williams-King, the Governess. **Tramway**, Albert Drive, Glasgow (041-227 5511), Tues and Thurs, 8pm.

FALSTAFF: David Pountney's colourful production of Verdi's great last opera returns to ENO with Benjamin Luxon in the title role. The cast also includes Alan Opie, Janice Cairns, Anne Collins and Yvonne Howard. Andrew Litton makes his Coliseum debut in the pit. **Coliseum**, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), Thurs, 7.30pm.

DER ROSENKAVALIER: Jonathan Miller brings his sure touch to bear on Strauss's bitter-sweet masterpiece. This thought-provoking performance is the first new Coliseum staging of the opera in almost 20 years. In an outstanding cast, Anne Evans sings the Feldmarschallin; John Tomlinson, Ochs; Sally Burgess, Octavian; and Rosemary Joshua, Sophie. The highly acclaimed young Russian, Yakov Kreizberg, conducts. **Coliseum**, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), today, 5.30pm, Tues, Fri, 6.30pm.

JAZZ

ANNIE WHITEHEAD EXPERIENCE: This year's Women Take Centre Stage Festival highlights the trombonist and composer's impressive new group including the funky bassist Kim Clarke and Dutch pianist Jasper Van t'Hof. The tour also presents an opportunity to hear Whitehead in Carol Grimes's refreshing acoustic line-up **Nottingham**, Marcus Garvey Centre (0602 419741), Wed, 7.30pm. **London**, Dingwalls (as above), Thurs, 7.30pm. **London**, Blackheath Concert Halls (081-463 0100), Fri, 7.30pm.



Annie Whitehead fronts an impressive new group

JAMES BLOOD ULMER. The expressive electric guitarist and former Ornette Coleman sidekick offers a night of funked-up blues with Gary Patterson (bass) and Aubrey Dayle (drums). **Dingwalls Jazz Factory**, London NW1 (071-267 1999), tomorrow, 7pm.

TRIBUTE TO STAN GETZ. Theo Travis pays homage to the emotionally resonant tenor saxophonist who died in 1991. **Jazz Café**, London NW1 (071-916 6000), Mon, 7pm.

ROCK

CYPRESS HILL. The popular hip-hop trio take to the road with more rumbustious rap. Book now for their gigs at London's Brixton Academy on February 22 and 23. **Liverpool**, Royal Court (051-709 4321), Wed, 7pm. **Bradford**, University (0274 383266), Thurs, 8pm.

PAVEMENT: The offbeat American rock band, now slightly less so after the departure of drummer Gary Young, go on tour to promote their forthcoming album, *Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain*. **Edinburgh**, Assembly Rooms (031-557 6969), Thurs, 7.30pm **Glasgow**, Queen Margaret Union (041-339 9784), Fri, 7.30pm.

AFGHAN WHIGS: This American band offers a heady mix of searing guitars and unusual lyrics, Rollerskate Skinny support. **Edinburgh**, Venue (031-226 7010) tomorrow, 9pm. **Belfast**, Queen's University, Mandela Hall (0232 324 903), Tues, 8pm. **Leeds**, University, Riley Smith Hall (0532 439 071), Thurs, 8.30pm.

EXHIBITIONS

LONDON

PICASSO — SCULPTOR AND PAINTER: Harbinger of the Spanish Arts Festival in London, which is going to claim a lot of attention throughout the spring, this show seeks a new perspective on Picasso by insisting on the central importance of the sculptures he made throughout most of his career. The painted sculptures are particularly emphasised as providing the common ground between the two media, and elsewhere sculptures are generally shown along with paintings on similar themes. **Tate Gallery**, Millbank, SW1 (071-887 8000). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, opens Wed to May 8.



Picasso's *Jacqueline with a Green Ribbon* (1962)

THE GOLDEN AGE 1730-1760: For anyone wondering what exactly achieved its golden age during those 30 years, the answer is brass-inlaid furniture in the Rococo taste, produced in England by, most outstandingly, John Channon (1711-1779). Channon's work is very flamboyant, making use of all manner of exotic materials, and was influential on many contemporaries, including even his arch-rival Thomas Chippendale. There are some 40 pieces, several of them enormous, like one of the famous bookcases from Powderham Castle, shown outside its original context for the first time since it was installed in 1740. **Victoria and Albert Museum**, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8500). Mon, midday-5.50pm, Tues-Sun, 10am-5.50pm, opens Wed to Apr 24.

THE FINE ART AND ANTIQUES FAIR: Yet another new art fair, this time ranging from antique furniture and Old Master drawings to contemporary works and modern classics by such as Henry Moore, Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth. About 60 dealers will be taking part. The loan exhibition (every self-respecting fair has to have one) concerns "Jane Austen and her family". **National Hall, Olympia**, Hammersmith Road, W14 (071-370 8188). Tues-Fri, 11am-8pm, Sat, 11am-6pm, Sun, 11am-5pm, opens Tues to Feb 20.

VICTORIAN ILLUSTRATED BOOKS 1850-1870: The book dealer and collector Robin de Beaumont has over the years amassed the finest collection in private hands, reflecting the skills of the mid-Victorian wood-engraver and the illustrators whose art he interpreted for books and magazines. **British Museum**, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, until Apr 24.

SANDRA BLOW: The artist was for some time the RA of the leading "token" abstractionists. Now that abstraction is much more acceptable in academic circles, she continues to paint with unabated energy and individuality. The show charts her course from 1959 right up to date. **Royal Academy of Arts**, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438). Daily 10am-6pm, until Mar 3.

HIMALAYAN AND JAPANESE ART: The collection of the late Hannes Schmitt and Marita Meade has wonderfully simple metalwork as well as garishly ornate: fine Buddhist paintings, touchingly basic Tibetan votive figures in clay. Also exquisite ceramics connected with the couple's secondary obsession, the Japanese tea ceremony. **British Museum**, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-5pm, until Apr 17.

CLAUDE — THE POETIC LANDSCAPE: Universally admired though Claude Lorrain's landscapes have been, few of them are "pure" landscapes, as in the landscapes-with-figures the figures nearly always point a moral or adorn a tale. This new exhibition, of 28 paintings and more than 50 drawings, examines the importance of the classical and biblical stories behind these paintings. **National Gallery**, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3526). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm (Wed to 8pm), Sun, 2-6pm, until Apr 10.

FABERGÉ — IMPERIAL JEWELLER: Though many of the luxurious objects created by Fabergé for the last Tsars have found their way westward, a surprising number remain in the Hermitage in St Petersburg. This comprehensive show covers the whole career of the jeweller from the 1870s up to the Revolution in 1917. **Victoria & Albert Museum**, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8500). Mon, midday-5.50pm, Tues-Sun, 10am-5.50pm, until Apr 10.

THE UNKNOWN MODIGLIANI: Between 1906 and 1914, Modigliani's doctor and close friend Paul Alexandre saved every last fragment of preparatory drawing for his important paintings and sculptures of the time. Some of the drawings are famous, but most of the collection has never been publicly exhibited before. The show offers a unique insight into the creative processes of one of the century's most significant artists. **Royal Academy of Arts**, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438), daily, 10am-6pm, until Apr 4.

HOLBEIN AND THE COURT OF HENRY VIII. As this small but spectacular show demonstrates, Holbein was one of the finest draughtsmen ever and had extraordinary penetration of human character. The people, well or little known, who gathered around Henry VIII and sat for Holbein during his time at court spring instantly to vivid, idiosyncratic life in these drawings and miniatures from the Royal Library, Windsor. **National Portrait Gallery**, St Martin's Place, WC2 (071-306 0055). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, midday-6pm, until Apr 17.

DEMON OF PAINTING: Last chance to see this exhibition of the works of Kawanabe Kyōsai (1831-89), the great non-conformist of Japanese painting. **British Museum**, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, until tomorrow.

REGIONAL

THE EDGE OF THE LAND: The first important commemoration of the life and work of Richard Eurich, this touring show gives a vivid impression of his range and versatility. **Southampton City Art Gallery**, NorthGuild, Civic Centre, Southampton (0703 632 601) Tues-Fri, 10am-5pm (Thurs to 8pm), Sat, 10am-4pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until Mar 13

FROM LEONARDO TO MANET: Since the last survey exhibition of acquisitions ten years ago, the National Gallery of Scotland has acquired more than 300 prints and drawings. Fifty outstanding examples are on show, including also the brand-new purchase of a drawing by Ingres, *The Dream of Ossian*. **National Gallery of Scotland**, The Mount, Edinburgh (031-556 8921). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until Apr 17.

ALAIN KIRILI. A French sculptor who lives in America, Kirili has never before shown in Britain. His work is abstract but full of energy, using forged iron, wood and terracotta, fully justifying his own comparisons with free jazz. The show will also be seen in London and Edinburgh. **Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts**, University of East Anglia, Norwich (0603 56060). Tues-Sun, midday-5pm, until May 15

MASTERPIECES FROM YORKSHIRE HOUSES: The country houses of Yorkshire contain many little-known treasures, and the haul for this loan exhibition includes many paintings that have never been publicly exhibited before, including a handful of important new discoveries and identifications. The artists are mostly British portraitists like Gainsborough and Reynolds, or tastes acquired on the Grand Tour, including Canaletto and Batoni. There are also some sculptures. **York City Art Gallery**, Exhibition Square, York (0904 623839). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-5pm (last admission 4.30pm), until Mar 20.

WILLIAM WILSON: Between the wars Wilson (1905-72) was widely regarded as Scotland's most important printmaker, as well as being one of the leading artists of stained glass throughout Britain. His work in all media is richly coloured, faintly Expressionist in style. This show featuring his watercolours, etchings and glass constitutes something of a rediscovery. **Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art**, Belford Road, Edinburgh (031-556 8921), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until Apr 17.

NEW VIDEOS

HARD BOILED (Tartan, 18): Stylised but tedious action showpiece from cult Hong Kong director John Woo, with Chow Yun-Fat as a cop chasing gun-runners. 1992.

THE LACEMAKER (Arrow, 15): Isabelle Huppert as an innocent hairdresser's assistant experiencing first love. A marvellous film from Swiss director Claude Goretta, filled with the melancholic beauty of the seaside in bad weather. 1977.

THE NIGHT WE NEVER MET (Guild, 15): Romantic mix-ups in a time-shared New York apartment with Matthew Broderick, Annabella Sciorra and Kevin Anderson. Endearing, unassuming comedy from writer-director Warren Leight. 1993.

SLIVER (CIC, 18). Even with sex siren Sharon Stone this still makes a botched erotic thriller, carved from Ira Levin's novel about murder and voyeurism in a New York skyscraper. Director, Phillip Noyce. 1993.

BOOKINGS

CELLO FESTIVAL. A virtual who's who of today's greatest cellists lead the programme for an international series at the Royal Northern College of Music. The opening concert is for unaccompanied cellos: solo, duet and quartet, played by Yo Yo Ma, Frans Helmerson, Boris Pergamenschikow, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi and Ralph Kirshbaum. April 30 sees a performance by eight cellists of works by composers of their own country. Contact box office for competition, concert, and workshop information. **RNCM**, Manchester (061-273 4504). Apr 27-May 1

SPANISH ARTS FESTIVAL. A six-week extravaganza includes flamenco from the flamboyant Ballet Christina Hoyos, the UK premiere of the national dance company, whose artistic director is the acclaimed choreographer Nacho Duato; Cervantes' *La Gran Sultana* from Compañia Nacional de Teator Clásico, and a mixed media celebration of the life and works of poet-dramatist Federico Garcia Lorca. **Sadler's Wells**, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916). March 7 - April 23

Film: Geoff Brown. **Theatre**: Jeremy Kingston; **Classical Music and Opera**: Gwen Hughes, **Rock and Jazz**: Stephanie Osborne. **Dance**: Debra Craine; **Exhibitions**: John Russell Taylor. **New Videos**: Geoff Brown. **Bookings**: Kris Anderson

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 18

AGNOMEN

(c) In Roman antiquity, a second cognomen or fourth name, occasionally assumed by Romans. Hence, loosely, a "to-name", or additional name, subsequently acquired. From the Latin *ad* + *(g)nomen*, *Adgnoscere* to recognise: "The generality of grammarians speak of the agnomen as a fourth name superadded to the cognomen or third name, on account of some extraordinary action, virtue, or the like: as *Africanus* in Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus."

BRACT

(a) In botanical jargon, a small modified leaf or scale, growing immediately below the calyx of a plant, or upon the peduncle of a flower, adaptation of the Latin *bractea* a thin plate or leaf of metal, gold-leaf: "There are no exact limits between bracts and common leaves."

SANTIR

(c) The dulcimer of the Arabs and Persians, a corruption of the Greek *psaltērion* psaltery: Layard, *Discovering Nineveh and Babylon*, 1853: "An instrument not unlike the modern santir of the East, consisting of a number of strings stretched over a hollow case or sounding-board."

SMAKE

(a) To perceive by scent or smell, also to smell, give out a (sweet) smell or odour, also to taste, or taste of (something), from the Middle English *smaken*, later supplanted by *smack*: "The hungriest hound ne durst lap of that laueyne so unlovely it smaketh."

JAZZ: Life has been tough for Ruth Brown, whose first London date is at Ronnie Scott's next week. She's in good voice, says **Christopher Hawtree**

Lady's good reason to sing the blues

Ruth Brown lets out a big-hearted laugh as a blizzard batters the New York hotel room in which she is holed up with all her earthly possessions. "Hell, it's sure been one extreme or another lately," she says.

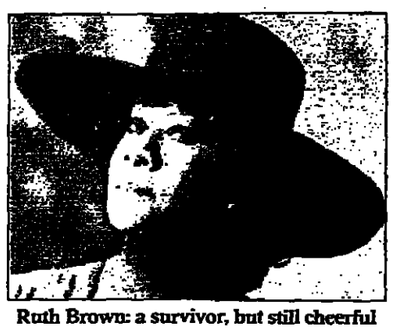
At 66, the cheerful survivor of one misfortune or another will not let anything hinder next week's first visit to London. She has a season at Ronnie Scott's — high time that England knew her for more than Motormouth Maybelle, the funky record-store owner in *Hairspray*.

"My legs are still shaking." No exaggeration, they have given her problems since 1948. A day after she joined Atlantic Records, an automobile smash kept her in hospital for several months. The record company, which had just been started by the Ertegun brothers, jazz-crazy sons of the Turkish ambassador to Washington, paid her bills, and was rewarded with the raunchy sides which put it on the map.

"Just as I was then. I'm grateful to be alive now." She had been shaken by last month's California earthquake. "If I'd not been given a Yorkshire terrier for my birthday five days before the quake, I might not be. 4.31am. I'll never forget that very moment. He began barking, the earth *moved*, and I leapt out. Never complain that terriers yap! Moments later, everything — TV, heavy mirror, furniture — crashed in on that bed. They got me out but the sad thing is that the dog died."

She is in no hurry to go back. "I never liked California much anyway. I'm a music buff, I need to get around the clubs in Manhattan." She arrived in New York from Virginia in the Forties and began a musical career somewhat different from the sacred songs favoured by her parents.

She owes it all to Billie Holiday. "I was at Cafe Society, doing her songs her way, even had a flower in my hair. She came by and straightened me right out — said nobody could know what I really was. 'As long as you sound like me, nobody's gonna try to sound like you'."



Ruth Brown: a survivor, but still cheerful

Few can match the gutsy inflections which Brown brought to those early singles. Such titles as "Wild, Wild Young Men" and "Mama, He Treats Your Daughter Mean" suggest the material which the Erteguns gave her. "Ruby Toombs came up with my really big ones, 'Teardrops From My Eyes' and '5-10-15 Hours'. They feel good even now." Superb musicians augment these brisk tales of bad men. Among them, Jimmy Brown and Willis Jackson, who became husbands for a while.

Hardly typical of writers Leiber and Stoller, and certainly not of her, was the biggest hit, "Lucky Lips". She gives a wild laugh and confesses. "I'll still sing it if somebody really needs to hear it!"

Time was, after The Beatles ("but I'm a fan"), when cheques were few. She had to fight for back royalties. "Over the hill at 30! But we survived." A book, *Tell The Truth, Ruth*, out next year, will be colourful stuff. After years of driving a school bus and working in an old people's home, she got back yet again. Her talk has all the zest of the *Hairspray* part. "Really unexpected, that. I was off-Broadway, in *Stagger Lee*, and John Waters's casting director came by, had me audition. Only afterwards did they bring out that godawful white wig. I said *no way*, but then Divine, who became a good friend, said, 'Listen, you're playing a part, honey, not being Ruth Brown', so I put the thing on. Best move I ever made. I still get cheques."

She then hit Broadway and Paris in the long-running Harlem revue, *Black and Blue*. "I can't imagine why it didn't reach London." More's the pity — there's nothing quite like her version of Andy Razaf's furniture-store innuendo, "If I Can't Sell It, I'll Keep Sitting On It". Now better known than ever, her voice has become all the more expressive.

A while back she sang with Thad Jones and Mel Lewis and, more recently, has turned in a ten-minute version of "St Louis Blues" — her continuing empathy with musicians makes this not at all self-indulgent. On "Good Morning, Heartache", she is herself, not Billie Holiday.

"Music's always been the real therapy. You know, whenever I talk about my life, I realise more people have gone. 'Ram' Ramirez died this week, so have two of The Clovers. Grim, but I was on the phone to LA and said, 'Look, don't worry about anything else, just dig out my stage-clothes. I don't want to come on in London looking like a quake victim. We're going to have us a good time!' "

● *Ruth Brown is at Ronnie Scott's, 47 Frith St, W1 (071-439 0747) from Monday for two weeks.*

Insert coins for a cheap laugh

Heard the one about the two men who decided to sell comedy cassettes from vending machines in airports and hospitals? If you haven't yet, you will soon, says **Joe Joseph**

Weary of watching another in-flight movie? Sick of the sound of Suede on the hospital radio channel? Tired of trashy novels on the bookstand at Gatwick?

Life could take a funnier turn the next time you catch a plane to Paris, a train to Bristol, or a nagging fever, with the imminent arrival in airports, railway stations and hospitals of vending machines selling comedy audio tapes.

Comics dispensed at a button's push will range from Rowan Atkinson to Groucho Marx. The cassettes will be priced at £3 to compete with a racy paperback or a glossy magazine. And being as easy to impulse-buy as a Mars bar, they may become the last word in throwaway humour.

Forgotten your Walkman? The vending machine can also sell you a Made-In-Asia cassette player for under £4. Last-minute travellers might view the tapes as the "handy pre-pasted disposable toothbrush" of the Nineties.

The two straight men behind the scheme are Colin Collino, a former doctor, and Mike O'Brien, once a music marketing man. Between them, and in just two years, they have built Britain's only all-comedy recording label. Like many winning ideas, it was spawned over a pint in a pub. Now their humour catalogue extends from Ben Elton, Billy Connolly and Jo Brand to Frankie Howerd and Pete & Dud.

> ' People added a tape to their petrol bill. Sales boomed '

Laughing Stock, their company, has already reached buyers other record firms were failing to locate. They did it by moving their comedy stock away from obvious outlets like record shops and into unlikely ones such as garages, bookshops, convenience stores, motorway stops and Athena poster shops. People out for a cheap laugh began adding a Bill Cosby tape to their petrol bills; they tossed a Frankie Howerd cassette into their shopping baskets along with the Nescafé. Sales boomed.

When a vending machine company started buying Laughing Stock cassettes to pep up dreary delivery trips they reckoned there were probably other trippers also keen for a fast laugh. They contacted Laughing Stock, struck a deal, and set about designing the vending machines. The first ones should be spitting out gags within a month, from BA lounges and Butlin's camps to train stations and car hire offices.

"When we first started," says Collino, who was 30 and about to become a London consultant pathologist, "we released a Rowan Atkinson cassette and sat back, waiting to become rich. Then we saw the first month's sales figures. They were close to zero. Record shops weren't geared up to marketing comedy tapes.

"So we started looking for other ways to sell the cassettes. We put them into garages and convenience stores and found that when we put them in front of the customer, they were keen to buy them. When you're driving in the sticks, and you're fed up with the radio, listening to Billy Connolly or Ben Elton is an alternative in-car entertainment. Vending machine seemed the obvious next step." Atkinson's tape has long since become one of their biggest sellers.

News of the company's success spread like a stolen joke through the comedy circuit. Soon envious agents for top comics like Ben Elton were giving Laughing Stock exclusive recording contracts for new material. The company now not only goes out to record concerts of rising stars such as Mark Thomas and Greg Proops, it has also built a recording studio in its Battersea offices, is trying to nurture new young writers, and is producing comedy radio shows. They have just recorded six half-hour shows by The Reduced Shakespeare Company for the BBC. Willy Russell just called about reading his play *Shirley Valentine* on tape.

The arrival of Paul Merton, Jo Brand and Eddie Izzard on the revamped Radio 1 is the latest evidence of the comedy boom. "So far nobody has specialised in comedy cassettes," says Collino. "I don't think we're successful because we're particularly clever. It's just that it's an area that has been ignored."



Mike O'Brien and Collin Collino: from backgrounds in music-marketing and medicine, they have turned themselves into Laughing Stock

CONCERT

Fizzing and floating

ECO/Leppard
Barbican/Radio 3

RAYMOND Leppard's week-long gathering of Schumann and friends at the Barbican ended with as much vitality and teeming energy as if everyone were ready to turn around and start again. The English Chamber Orchestra always plays for Leppard as though he were a dear friend and wise guide, which, indeed, he has been for 30 years.

The grand finale of this little festival was the Fourth Symphony. A "symphonic fantasy" was how Schumann liked to think of it, and so it was on Tuesday. The flow of ideas within and between movements could be palpably felt in this performance: Leppard phrased the slow introduction (which contains just about everything of which the symphony is made) as if it were to be sung. Even the descending chords, which can have a tendency to become stuck on the strings, were this time shaped into waves of sound that became part of the tide of melody as it swept up from cellos to violins.

The symphony's chief soloists — the oboe and violin of the Romanze and the horn players of the finale — took a well-deserved bow after a performance which, unlike many, made the listener positively admire Schumann's orchestration. The comparative light weight of the band, and the obvious enthusiasm of their conductor, made for a teasing scherzo, alternately fizzing and floating its way to the finale.

Schumann's two friends this time were Hummel, his kindly *eminence grise*, and Weber, no less influential on Schumann's musical spirit. Each composer was represented by a piano concerto of outrageous, almost caricatured, virtuosity with the Moscow-born pianist Nikolai Demidenko as victim.

Demidenko is an intense, teeth-gritter of a pianist at the best of times. In Hummel's B minor concerto, he revelled in a slow movement which, once its opening horn quartet was over, left not a second of time or space unfilled by the piano. The exuberant rondo finale, which seems to incorporate every trick of the composer's own three-volume piano textbook, was made by Demidenko into a kaleidoscopic fantasy of light, shade, tension and release.

More of the delicate, finely nuanced passagework at which he excels was on show in Weber's F minor *Concertstück*. Its four episodes were nicely placed within fairly large musical inverted commas, as if to emphasise the romantic programme (knight leaves lady in tower to go and fight in Holy Land) with which Weber unashamedly stage-managed his concerto.

HILARY FINCH

OPERA

A star is born again in style

L'Etoile
Queen Elizabeth Hall

OPERA North's away-break to London has shown the company at its best. Richard Morrison enthused over *Gloriana* at Covent Garden three days ago. Chabrier's *L'Etoile*, which deals with the troubles of a king rather than a queen, is an equal success in the more modest surroundings of the QEH. Both original productions are by Phyllida Lloyd.

L'Etoile opened in Leeds three years ago, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Chabrier's birth. It comes to the South Bank as part of a mini-festival to mark the centenary of his death. No wake could be more joyous than this so-called "enhanced" concert performance.

The adjective makes the evening sound like a superior brand of cat food. But *L'Etoile* certainly was "enhanced", so much so that the mausoleum-like interior of the QEH was in regular danger of turning into a true theatre. As many of Anthony Ward's outrageously flashy costumes are used as possible. Singers appear from all corners, ready to trill their way down the aisles and clamber onto the stage. Much of the business survives from Phyllida Lloyd's staging, a sharply British view of Chabrier's foray into the zany realms of Offenbachian operetta.

This is thanks to the gusto and assurance of the singers, who have to perform much of the evening front stage with the conductor (the equally polished Valentin Reymond) behind them. Alas, King Ouf is no longer disguised as a dustbin as he wanders the streets trying to find a subject to insult him. But Paul Nilon compensates with a sweet tenor and an impish wit. Jonathan Best, the court astrologer whose forecasts of death for Ouf and himself are as unreliable as a daily horoscope column, is a ringer for Donald Sinden, alternating bluster and consternation.

Otherwise Opera North fields the excellent principals of three years ago. Pamela Helen Stephen is the pedlar Lazuli, born under a wandering star until he spots a permanent fixture in the shape of Princess Laoula. Stephen makes it not so much a trouser role as a belt and braces one. Her words are sometimes indistinct but her mezzo has gained much strength. Mary Hegarty is a delectable Laoula and even manages to emerge dripping from a ducking in one of King Ouf's lakes with a piece of pondweed in her hair, a rare sight at the QEH. It was all part and parcel of a company thoroughly enjoying itself.

JOHN HIGGINS

VARIETY: **Benedict Nightingale** fails to fall under Paul Daniels' spell

Tricks — not a lot of treats

Paul Daniels — The Magic Man
Prince of Wales

DO toyshops still sell those little bags which, when jiggled, emit loud peals of snide, soprano laughter? Either a member of Paul Daniels's audience had brought one to his first night or someone in the circle possessed warped voice-chords and an even more malformed sense of humour. The bag or hag squealed and chortled without obvious reason, giving the magician, who is apt to wax pious about the virtues of live theatre as opposed to television, every opportunity to demonstrate his spontaneity.

"Not many of you knew that Frank Bruno laughed like that," he ventured. "I wonder if Penn and Teller sem that laugher here — whoever they are," he added. Growing a mite desperate, he asked volunteers to pass the hysteric some Valium, and, changing his tack, suggested he or she might be high on heroin. That gave him the cue to launch into a diatribe about the enthusiasm of the police for clamping cars while ignoring drug-sellers. Daniels rather enjoys his role as the plain-spoken Yorkshireman, sharing his plain-woven wisdom.

Yet I must admit I was sometimes on the mad mocker's side. *The Magic Man* does not exactly frisk with originality. What was the point of "The Girls", as the programme calls the ladies who are discovered at the beginning in flame cutaway dresses and semi-recumbent postures around a podium with a chair on it? They reappear as bobby-soxers and later in zebra swimsuits with matching hats, but their main contribution seems simply to add desultory glitz.



Daniels: bantering

Still, there is always the magic, isn't there? Even that might be fresher. Daniels himself does agile but conventional things with balls, cards and rope. He shoves steel rods through the sentry-box in which his partner, Debbie McGee, is secreted, and then pushes the poor woman through a wall of glass. His son, Martin Daniels, hauls a young man up from the audience, and subjects him to an oldish routine, will-he-won't-he-be-guillotined? Women disappear from a phone-box. So does a motor-cyclist from a sling dangling from the flies.

But I felt that, for better or worse, Daniels was less interested in astonishing the audience than in demonstrating his bantering rapport with selected members of it. That was fine when a little girl came onstage, and shyly forgot whether it was her eighth or ninth birthday. It was even finer when a gentleman, unmasked as a police inspector, was made to stand whirling an eggwhisk from his forehead. But a long item involving the copper and a medical student, vanishing banknotes, and chairs that appeared to deliver electric shocks to the buttocks became tiresome and embarrassing. At this point even the crazed laugher fell silent. Where was she when we really needed her?

THEATRE

Pinter's eastern look

The Caretaker
Watermans, Brentford

THREE years ago, Judith Hibberd was able to visit a number of theatres in eastern Europe on a tour jointly funded by LIFT and the National Theatre. "Seeding a Network", the name of the scheme, indicates its purpose.

Last autumn, three Russian companies made their way along the network to Watermans, where Hibberd is now director of programming, and this week it is the turn of the respected and 144-year-old National Theatre of Craiova, from southern Romania.

The company won a critics' award at the 1991 Edinburgh Festival for its *Ubu Rex*, but for this present brief visit (until tonight) the choice is Pinter's *The Caretaker*, directed by Daniela Peleanu.

A prior glance at the text is wise because, while the programme includes a synopsis, this cannot stimulate the little jolts of satisfaction that come with recognising exactly what line the actors have reached. Just occasionally, English and Romanian use a virtually identical word: monastery, negros, *camera* (for "room"). There is also "Sidcup" of course, where the tramp Davies maintains he will find his papers.

Before the play begins, and in front of the curtain, Peleanu makes the gentle Aston wash Davies's feet. At least one other Christian reference follows, and where, at the close, Pinter positioned Aston at a window with his back turned, this production's Aston sits like a Buddha, impassively ignoring the pleading Davies.

Peleanu has called the play a tragi-comedy where people respond to things with different feelings. For Aston, the responses are love and compassion (though only up to a point), for Mick they are love and fury, and it is good to have this dual aspect of the enigmatic Mick identified.

In the interplay between the two brothers the emotion that comes across is one of a love that neither feels confident will be welcomed by the other. Marian Negrescu's Mick holds out his arms but lets them drop and turns away. But if he is allowed more tenderness than we are used to, Valerie Dogaru's Aston near-strangles Davies with his scarf, before returning to his old-world courtesy.

On a set (by Viorel Penisora-Stegaru) hung with old sheets, Remus Margineanu's Davies fawns, kisses the hands of his benefactors, betrays one for the other and moves with a curious hobbling gait, as if fearing to lift his sandals from the floor. Ignorance of the language means missing many subtleties, but the intelligence of the performers comes across powerfully.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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Sun 13 Feb 7.30pm	YURI BASHMET Viola. London Symphony Orchestra, André Previn cond. Britten Sinfonia da Requiem Walton Viola Concerto Brahms Symphony No 4 £6 £9.50 £13.50 £15.50 £21 £29 LSO Ltd
Mon 14 Feb 7.30pm	VALENTINE'S DAY LOVE CLASSICS Lon. Conc. Orch., Philip Simms cond. Valerie Traficante piano. Tchaikovsky Fantasy Ov Romeo & Juliet Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No.2 Bizet Carmen Suite Ravel Bolero etc. £24 £21 £18.50 £12.50 £8.50 plus Valentines Rose for each lady in audience R. Gubbay Ltd
Tue 15 Feb 7.30pm	BAROQUE MASTERPIECES. London Oriana Choir, English Baroque Orchestra, Leon Lovett cond. Adele Pronon, David Fieldsend, James Huw Jeffries, Giles Davies soloists Bach Orchestral Suite No.3 & Magnificat Vivaldi Beatus Vir Handel Zadok The Priest. The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba £18-£8
Wed 16 Feb 7.30pm	HUNGARIAN STATE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Ken-Ichiro Kobayashi cond. Lydia Mordkovitch violin. Wagner Ov Die Meistersinger von Nürnburg Brahms Violin Concerto Bartók Concerto for Orchestra £22 £15 £12 £9 £7 IMG Artists Europe
Thu 17 Feb 7.30pm	LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Carlo Rizzi cond., Lilya Zilberstein piano. Mozart Neue Lambacher Symphony Haydn Piano Concerto in D Schubert Symphony No.9 The Great £5-£29 SPONSORED BY NATIONAL POWER LSO Ltd
Fri 18 Feb 7.30pm	ORCHESTRE NATIONAL DE FRANCE Charles Dutoit cond., Felicity Lott mezzo Roussel 2nd Suite from Bacchus and Ariane Ravel Shéhérazade Debussy La Mer Ravel La Valse £35 £23 £17.50 £12 £7.50 IMG Artists & Barbican Centre in assoc. with R. Gubbay Ltd, The Daily Telegraph & BBC Radio 3FM

Sunday 13 February 7.30pm
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
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Walton Viola Concerto
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KEN-ICHIRO KOBAYASHI conductor
LYDIA MORDKOVITCH violin
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London Symphony Orchestra
SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY 7.30PM
Holst The Planets
Stravinsky Dumbarton Oaks
Prokofiev Violin Concerto No.2;
RICHARD HICKOX conductor
GIL SHAHAM violin
London Symphony Chorus
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Sunday 27 February 4.00pm
MAXIM VENGEROV
violin
ITAMAR GOLAN
piano
Mozart Sonata in A, K503
Brahms Sonata No.1 in G, Op 78
Prokofiev Sonata No.1 in F Minor, Op 80
Wieniawski Polonaise No.1 in D, Op 4
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OPERA GALA
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Soprano SUSAN McCULLOCH
Tenor ANTHONY MEE Baritone MICHAEL LEWIS
National Symphony Orchestra Cond DAVID COLEMAN
Fanfare Trumpeters Pro Musica Chorus
Ov. Marriage of Figaro, LA TRAVIATA **Matadors' Chorus,** FAUST **Valentine's Aria, Soldiers' Chorus,** MANON LESCAUT **Donna non vidi mai, Intermezzo,** LA WALLY **Ebben. Ne andro,** MAGIC FLUTE **Der Vogelfanger,** PEARLFISHERS **Duet,** TANNHAUSER **Pilgrims' Chorus,** LA BOHEME **Che gelida manina, Si, mi chiamano Mimi, O soave fanciulla,** NORMA **Casta Diva,** THAIS **Meditation,** I PAGLIACCI **Vesti la giubba, Prologue,** CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA **Easter Hymn,** BARBER OF SEVILLE **Largo al factotum,** RUSALKA **O silver moon,** IL TROVATORE **Di quella pira** AIDA **Grand March,** TURANDOT **Nessun dorma**
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BARBICAN
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BEETHOVEN
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Symphony No.7
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EIVIND AADLAND dir. ***CHIHARU SAKAI*** piano
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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Sat 12 Feb 7.30	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Vernon Handley (cond) Birtwistle The Triumph of Time; Elgar Introduction & Allegro; Vaughan Williams Job £15, £12, £9, £7, £5 *RPO Ltd
Sun 13 Feb 7.30	PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA James Levine Series. James Levine (cond) Murray Perahia (piano) Beethoven Piano Concerto No.4; Symphony No.3 (Eroica) Sponsor: NCR. RETURNS ONLY *Philharmonia Ltd
Tue 15 Feb 7.30	THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC Resident at the RFH Roger Norrington (cond) Beethoven Overture, Coriolan, Symphony No.8; Brahms Symphony No.4 £28, £20, £17, £13, £8, £5 *Lon Phil
Wed 16 Feb 7.30	PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA James Levine Series. James Levine (cond) Christa Ludwig (mezzo) Philharmonia Chorus, New London Children's Choir, Mahler Symphony No.3 Sponsor: NCR. £22, £17 (ONLY) *Philharmonia Ltd
Thu 17 Feb 7.30	BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Andrew Davis (cond) Peter Donohoe (piano) Willard White (bone) BBC Symphony Chorus, Wooburn Singers. Turnage Momentum; Tippett Piano Concerto; Walton Belshazzar's Feast. £9, £4 unreserved BBC Radio 3 FM
Fri 18 Feb 7.30	THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC Resident at the RFH Richard Hickox (cond) Lars Vogt (piano) Brahms Academic Festival Overture; Beethoven Piano Concerto No.4; Elgar Symphony No 1. Sponsor: Ind Coope Retail. £10, £5 *Lon Phil

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Sat 12 Feb 7.45	OLGA BORODINA (mezzo) Larissa Gergieva (piano) International Song Recital Series. Rachmaninov Songs; Shostakovich Spanish Songs, Op.100. Falla Siete canciones populares españolas. £20, £15, £12, £7.50 Lies Askonas/AMI/*SBC
Sun 13 Feb 3.00	LARS VOGT International Piano Series. Haydn Sonata in G, Hob.XVI/40; Schumann Bunte Blätter, Op.99; Liszt Ballade No.2; Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition £9, £4 Harold Holt Ltd/*SBC
Sun 13 Feb 7.45	ALLEGRI AT 40 Allegri String Quartet: Peter Carter, David Roth, Roger Tapping, Bruno Schrecker. Beethoven Qtet, Op.131; Wolf Italian Serenade; Dvorak Qtet, Op.96 (American) Spons: Mr Alfred Peto Bennett. £15, £11, £8, £6 Magenta Music Intl Ltd
Mon 14 Feb 1.05	BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA LUNCHTIME CONCERT Introduced by Desmond Carrington, violin soloist Maurice Hasson, Owain Arwel Hughes (cond) Wks by Bizet, Bruch, Bartok, Britten. £8 (concs £4.50) BBC Radio Two
Mon 14 Feb 7.45	JAMES BOWMAN & THE KING'S CONSORT Robert King (dir) Lorna Anderson, James Bowman, Handel Arias & music from Ariodante, Alcina, Acis & Galatea, Solomon, Giulio Cesare, Serse & Rinaldo. £16, £14, £11.50, £9.50 (ONLY) *The King's Consort
Tue 15 Feb 7.45	MICHEL PETRUCCIANI A gifted composer, inspired improviser and brilliant performer, he plays his own music or jazz standards with equally dazzling relish. £12.50, £10 (ONLY) *Assembly Direct
Wed 16 Feb 7.45	LONDON MOZART PLAYERS Matthias Bamert (cond) John Wallace (tpt) Philippa Davies (fl) Bach Suite No.2; Birtwistle Endless Parade; L. Mozart Trumpet Conc; Schubert Sym No.6 (Little) Spons: Générale des Eaux Group. £16, £15, £11, £8 *HMS
Thu 17 Feb 7.45	HERMANN PREY (baritone) JAMES LEVINE (piano) Schubert Lieder Recital Sponsor: NCR. £10, £9 (ONLY) *Philharmonia Ltd

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WIGMORE HALL

Saturday 12 Feb 7.30 pm	MELOS QUARTET. Master Concert Haydn: String Quartet in G minor Op.74 No.3 The Rider Janacek: Quartet No.1 Kreutzer Sonata (1923) Dvorak: Quartet in F Op.96 American £12, £10, £8, £6 HoM
Sunday 13 Feb 11.30 am NB: starting time	MELOS QUARTET. Sunday Morning Coffee Concert Beethoven: String Quartet in E flat Op.74 The Harp Debussy: Quartet in G minor Op.10 £8 including programme and coffee/sherry/juice
Sunday 13 Feb 4.00 pm NB: starting time	RIVKA GOLANI viola, JOHN LENEHAN piano Bach: Viola da gamba Sonata No.2 in D; David Jaeger: Sarabande Shostakovich: Sonata Op.147; Paul Patterson: Tides of Mananan Brahms: Sonata in F minor Op.120 No.1; Paganini: Grand Sonata for Viola and Piano. £11, £9, £7, £5 Management: Lisa Peacock
Monday 14 Feb 7.30 pm	SUSANNE STANZELEIT violin, GUSZTAV FENYO piano Schubert: Sonatina in A minor D385; Delius: Sonata No.3; Debussy: Sonata (1916-17); Kurtág: Solo violin and piano pieces (UK prem) Bartók: Hungarian Folksongs; Enescu: Sonata in A minor Op.25 £10.00, £8.50, £7.00, £5.50 Sponsored by Rustab, Solicitor
Tuesday 15 Feb 7.30 pm	BARBARA BONNEY soprano, WARREN JONES piano Bernstein: I hate Music!; Barber: Hermit Songs; Rogers & Hammerstein: Songs from "Carousel", "The Sound of Music", "Flower Drum Song" and "The King and I", Songs by Argento and Griffes £18, £15, £12, £10 HoM
Wednesday 16 Feb 7.30 pm	IMOGEN COOPER piano Brahms: Variations on a Theme by Schumann Op.9 Schumann: Bunte Blätter Op.99 (selection); Novellette Op.21 No.2; Sonata in F sharp minor Op.11 £15.00, £12.50, £10.00, £7.50 Van Walsum Management Ltd
Friday 18 Feb 7.30 pm	FLORILEGIUM Early Music & Baroque Series. L'Europe Galante Vivaldi: "La Notte" Concerto; Bach: Italian Concerto; Leclair: Deuxième Recreation. Concertos by Blavet & Telemann; Trios by Handel & Francois le Cadet £10, £8, £6, £4

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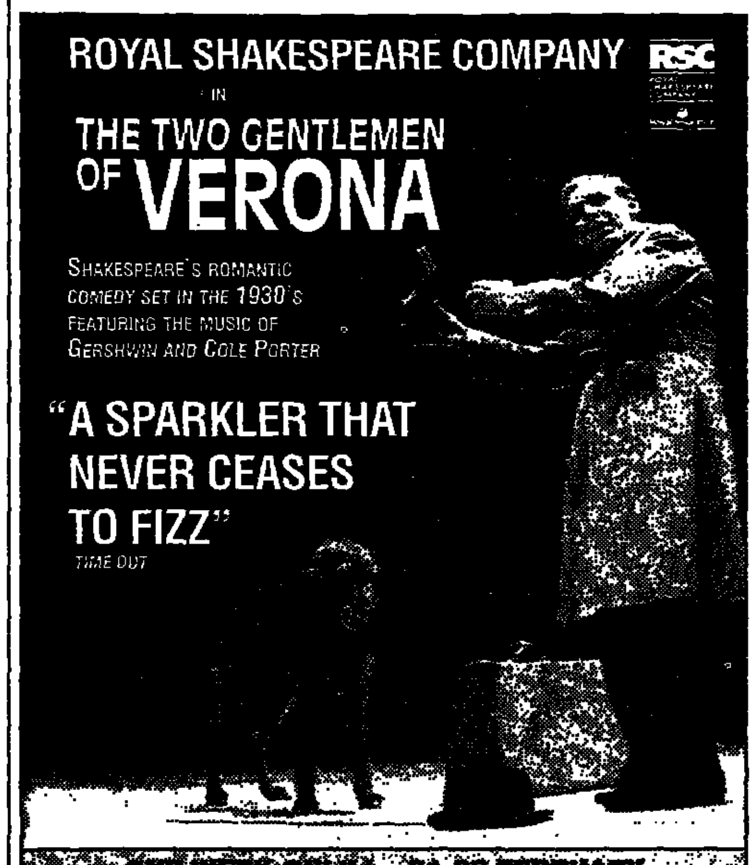
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THEATRES

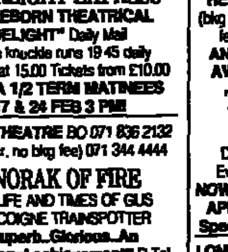


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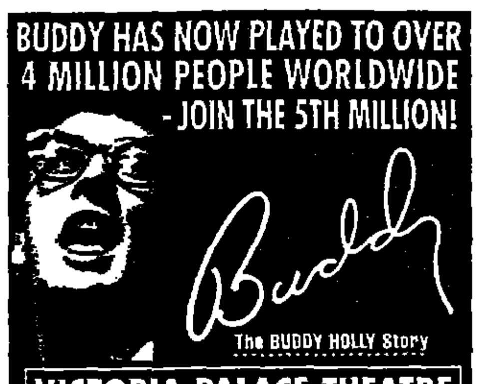
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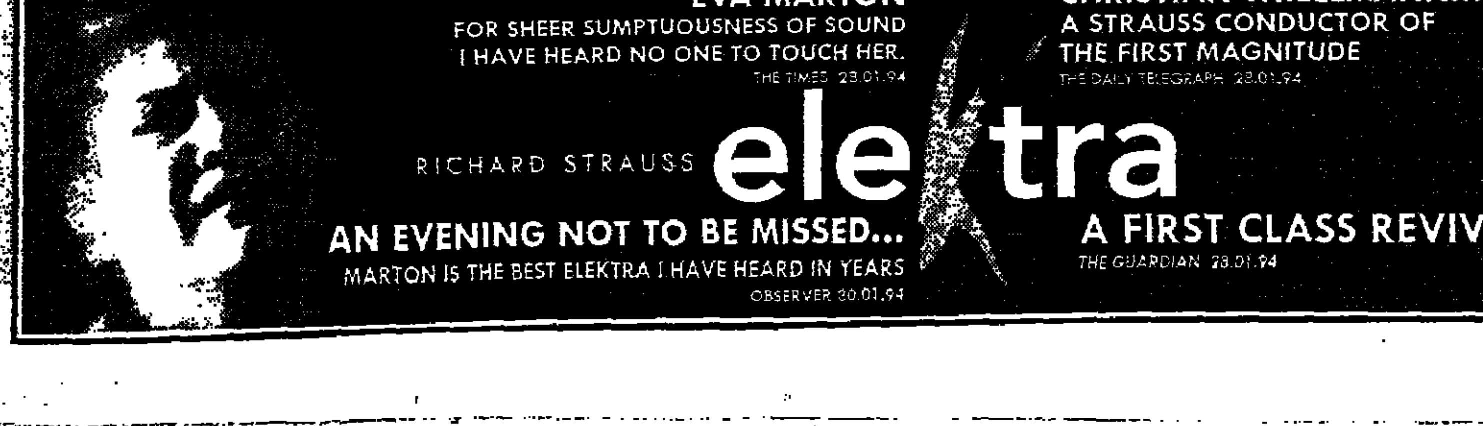
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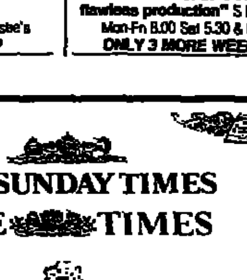
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I fear those animals are plotting to overthrow me

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY



It is well known that when the cat is away, the mice do play; but the question is, how do the mice know that the cat is not on duty? It cannot be simply that they scan the horizon, for mice are clearly sensible enough to realise that it takes only a peep out of the hole for a cunning cat to pounce. No, they have some kind of extra sense, and I urgently need to know how it works so that I can once again be master of my own farm.

Not that mice are my problem, but every other living thing on this farm seems to wait until my back is turned and then creates mayhem. It can be sheep, cattle, horses or pigs; it matters not, but the fact is that I, the old tomcat, have only to turn my back on the farm for five minutes for the party to begin.

Or is it something more sinister than a party? *Animal Farm* famously records what happened when the exploited farm animals decided they had had enough; and it is true that I am beginning to feel like the ruler of a troubled little nation who dare not leave his country for fear of overthrow. I am yet another leader who has constantly to look over his shoulder.

This is no new phenomenon. A couple of years ago, a cow died for no real reason at all. I had not left the farm for at least 30 days before, and probably did not go anywhere for 30 days after; but the very day I chose to escape was the day the cow turned turtle and pegged out. At the time I thought it was bad luck, but since then, the number of occasions on which fate has struck in my absence would convince any statistician that the mice know well in advance the cat's movements, and plan accordingly.

Our poor old pig Phoebe died a couple of months ago, you will remember. That was yet another deathbed scene acted out the *one* night before Christmas that I had to be away. It is very depressing for Robert, the lad who ably looks after the farm while I am away, and worrying for me: I am now careful to lift even the car keys as silently as I can in case their jangling should ring around the farm, like church bells, in celebration of my departure and bring the entire farm stock out of their corners, plotting against me.

Last weekend was the final straw. Before leaving on Saturday



morning, I fed the ewes and lambs and turned them out for the day as I have done now for the last fortnight. When the sun shines, the lambs frolic and scamper in a way that the confined yard does not allow; the ewes nibble at grass, or just bask. For two whole weeks they have done this without complaint, until I went away.

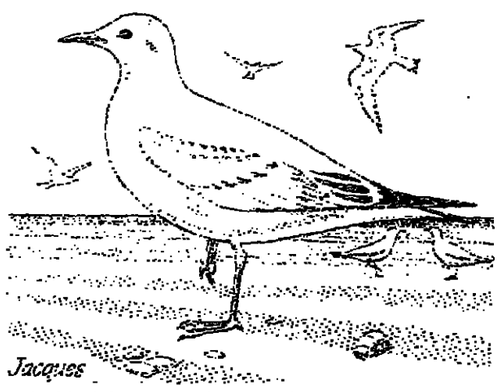
My wife discovered the disaster. One ewe had found her way across a narrow bridge over a ditch made of two railway sleepers. I have tried before to get sheep to cross in this way for it is a handy short cut, but the ewes have always stood trembling at the prospect, like a load of schoolgirls asked to tightrope the Cheddar Gorge. But as soon as my back is turned, they are blessed with new courage and sail across into pastures where they should not be. This in itself is no great disaster, but the ewes leave lambs behind and in returning to get them, knock other ewes into the ditch, who lie there bleating for their lambs, who join them and get stuck themselves, and on it goes till a crescendo of horrified bleating can be heard miles away.

Just to prove I am not paranoid about the way fate handles my absences, the fox chose that very night to carry off a young goose. We had three of them and each one has been taken on a night when I was not there. I cannot see why my sleeping presence would deter a really determined fox, but he inevitably strikes when I am away.

So I am sick of animals cocking their snouts at me, and am beginning to wonder where all this testing of my authority is leading. In retrospect, I dare say Baroness Thatcher regrets going to Paris and leaving all those young bullocks to play behind her back. Gorbachev went on holiday and look what those heavy-jowled old boars did while he was away.

I hear that Mr Major is shortly to travel to Moscow for a few days. If I were him, I would make sure that those very expensive wrought-iron sheep hurdles at the bottom of Downing Street are tied firmly with a bit of bale twine, and the electric fencer is on. It will not stop the mice partying at his departure, but there is no reason why he should make it easy for them.

Feather report



Jacques

The black-headed gull is part of the winter landscape

Gulls don the chocolate cap

THE good folk of Middlemarch would have had to go to the seaside to see a seagull — there were certainly none over Dr Lydgate's house, *Derwent May writes*. It was only at the beginning of the 20th century that the "great white sparrows", as I have heard them unkindly called, started to invade our farmland and our towns.

Now, of course, seagulls are part of the winter landscape practically everywhere — a line of them facing into the wind on top of a goal post, a pair of silvery-white wings glinting high in the sky above a housing estate. Even the word "seagull" has faded away, and given place to the simple "gull".

Most of these invaders are black-headed gulls. But the description is not very apt when they are inland in the winter, because all they have on their head at that season is a small, black smudge behind the eye.

However, at the beginning of February this starts to grow larger, and soon they will have their dark chocolate hoods, and be flying off to the sand dunes and marshes to breed.

In their winter quarters, the gulls often forage on ploughed fields, where they also fly at the lapwings and steal their food. However, they especially like rubbish dumps, which are much beautified even by this screaming white mob turning the plastic bottles over.

At night they will fly up to 20 miles to roost on a reservoir, wheeling round and round over their feeding grounds in the sunset before all setting off together.

They also nest communally. In the south of England, most of the colonies are on the coast, and in Sussex they have recently increased dramatically. In the north of England and Scotland, more colonies are found in moorland bogs and at the rushy edge of lonely tarns. They build tall nests of vegetation — as they are on the ground, these are always in danger of being flooded — and usually lay three mottled eggs.

It seems that the gulls need to nest communally in order to be safe from crows and foxes, which they will all rise up together to attack. But they are careful not to nest too close to each other, as a gull will not hesitate to snap up its neighbour's eggs or chicks.

There is another gull of much the same size called the "common gull". It mingles with the black-headed gulls, but really is only common in the north in the summer.

THE two species are easy to distinguish: apart from its head markings, the black-headed gull has a striking white leading edge to its outer wing, and red legs and beak. The common gull has green legs and beak, and also a steadier flight. The black-headed gulls dip and rise in the air almost like terns.

Many of the gulls' eggs we eat in spring come from the nests of black-headed gulls. But do not hesitate to enjoy them. The black-headed gull is doing very nicely, thank you, on our rubbish heaps and our reservoirs, and we can take a little from it in return.

● **What's about:** *Binders — blackbirds are now beginning to sing in gardens throughout the country. Twitchers — little bunting, Crawley, West Sussex; Brünnich's guillemot, Leith, Lothian; lesser white-fronted goose, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 36p a minute cheap rate, 48p a minute at all other times.*

What makes a place unique?

Two women celebrate the diversity of urban and rural landscapes

CLIVE BOURSNELL



Sue Clifford (left) and Angela King encourage people to seek out, restore and protect the gems that nature has created all around them

Something is stirring in the British countryside, and it is not just the first bluebell leaves coming up on the oakwood floor. People are moving about purposefully: decorating trees and singing under them, looking for the sources of streams and drawing maps of them, studying apple trees in neglected orchards to see if they are old, forgotten varieties. What has set all this activity in motion?

The answer is two energetic women, Sue Clifford and Angela King, who work from an office in Covent Garden, central London, and who ten years ago founded the organisation Common Ground.

Ms Clifford started her career in landscape planning, which she taught at University College, London. Ms King worked in New York as a fashion buyer, and became a wildlife campaigner with environmental groups there. She came back to Britain in the early Eighties to join Friends of the Earth, where she started the campaigns to save the otter and the whale. It was there that she met Ms Clifford.

There was a feeling at that time on all sides that the environmentalist movement had rather lost its way. It had become very science-based, and was concentrating on international issues.

The two women thought it was beginning to lose touch with ordinary people. They also found that the people who cared about the land and the wildlife around them often did not know how to defend it. So in 1983 they set up Common Ground.

Their aim was, and is, "to nourish people's confidence in their own, spontaneous responses to the value of their own places". They wanted people to fight for the tree they loved at the bend in the lane, or the newts that the local boys had always known were there, hibernating under the haystacks.

They took the name Common Ground from a book published in 1980 by the naturalist Richard Mabey, and in 1985 they published a book of their own, *Holding Your Ground*.

The book encouraged its readers to protect the distinctive identity of their countryside or townscape — and showed them how to do so. It brought in hundreds of letters and enquiries — and Common Ground was on its way.

Since then, many things have happened. One of their first big ventures was the Parish Maps Project, begun in 1987. Village groups have gone out tracing old boundaries, finding hollow trees or streams with elvers in them, and making illustrated maps of their discoveries, sometimes weaving or embroidering them. Common Ground now knows of more than 1,000 of these new parish maps, and has produced coloured postcards of several of them.

The map-making has led to further action, with streams being cleaned, lost footpaths being re-opened, and local authorities themselves seeking information from parishioners about what needs protecting.

Apples are of special interest to the two women. In 1990 they held a display in a marquee in Covent Garden of more than 100 old English apples — plus a still for making calvados, and shows by apple-jugglers and magicians. As a consequence, numerous people are now at work restoring old orchards and planting new "community orchards". The two women are trying to promote October 21 as Apple Day in the national calendar.

Trees are dear to them, and the culmination of this interest was the "tree-dressing" week organised by Common Ground last December, when trees were widely decorated and honoured.

But that makes me pause. Writing about that event at the time, I expressed a certain anxiety that one might not see the trees for the dressing. I asked Ms Clifford and Ms King whether there was not a danger that activities such as this might become too self-conscious and folksy. Was not "local identity" something that could grow up only naturally and unthinkingly, rather than something you could construct by eating antique apples?

In fact, were they not moving away from the conservation of nature to some kind of artificial construction of a lost, "spiritual" way of human life?

They denied this. They said they were still wholly in the business of conservation and of people taking an active, but natural and everyday pleasure in the world around them. They just felt that a lot needed to be done, and that any kind of excitement that could be created was worth it if it could leave a legacy of the right kind.

Their latest venture — the publication of a loose-leaf pack called "Celebrating Local Distinctiveness" — draws together many of the threads of the past ten years. Published for the 28 Rural Action networks that have been established over the past year or so, it will be available from next Tuesday.

The pack illustrates ways in which people can become more aware of how their own "place" is different from others — and how to keep it that way.

Few would wish Common Ground and the Rural Action networks anything but success in all of this. But, to me, their success will, in the end, be measured by the number of people who one day go about their lives noticing and enjoying beauty without wondering much where it came from — and creating beauty without thinking it anything other than a natural thing to do.

DERWENT MAY

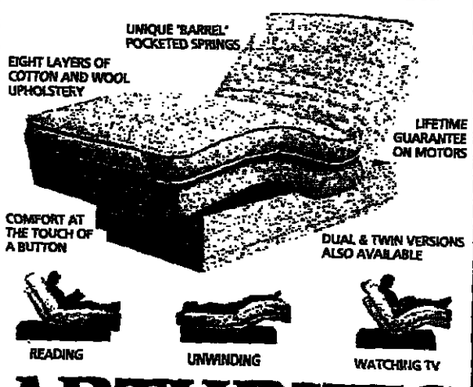
● *Further information on conserving natural beauty can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to Common Ground, 41 Shelton Street, London WC2H 9HJ (071-379 3109). The pack "Celebrating Local Distinctiveness" costs £2.20, and the book* Holding Your Ground *£8.95, both from the above address, including postage.*

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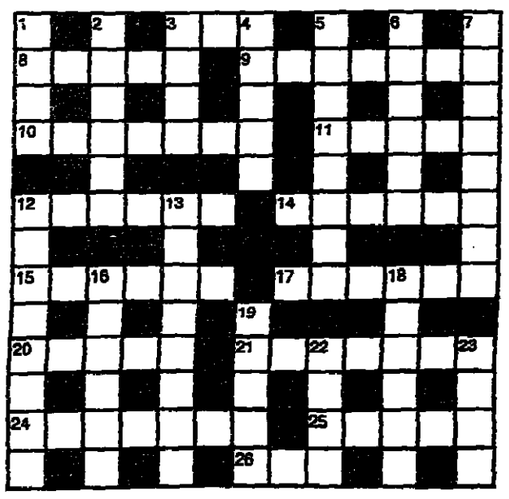
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 87

ACROSS

3 Group of items (3)
8 At the time arranged (2,3)
9 American country dance party (7)
10 Foot pedal (7)
11 Track down (5)
12 Unrefined (6)
14 Cement layer on floor (6)
15 Devotional beads (6)
17 Bully: brother of Paris (6)
20 Feudal lord or subject (5)
21 Sack (7)
24 Collapse inwards (7)
25 Unsophisticated (5)
26 Excavate (3)

DOWN

1 Comprehensive defeat (4)
2 Skin disease (6)
3 Germ (4)
4 Stealer (5)
5 Arm of e.g. octopus (5)
6 Find place of (6)
7 Cause to arise (8)
12 Russian script (8)
13 Valuer of land, buildings (8)
16 Himalayan guide (6)
18 Unimportant facts (6)
19 Extra (5)
22 Dirty (4)
23 Type of sub-machine-gun (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 86

ACROSS: 1 Sudden death 8 Eiger 9 Artiste 10 Lath 11 Sturgeon 13 Corral 14 Glamis 17 Thesauri 19 Grit 22 Figment 23 Annoy 24 Reach-me-down

DOWN: 1 Steal 2 Dog-star 3 Eyre 4 Dearth 5 After all 6 Haste 7 Tennis 12 Habanera 13 Cut off 15 Marengo 16 Wretch 18 Eager 20 Try on 21 Faze

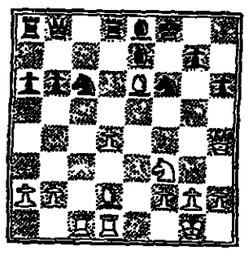
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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Today's position is from the game Yakovich - Bronstein, Hastings Challengers 1994. White has sacrificed a piece for a dangerous attack. Can you spot his most direct route to victory? Send your answers on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer will be published next Saturday. Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 ... Qxe3.



Last week's winners are: P W Newstead, Letchworth; C Jardine, Bolton; E Campbell, Brighton.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AGNOMEN
a. A feminist enclave
b. Pointer on a sundial
c. A fourth name

BRACT
a. A small leaf
b. Highland heathland
c. A wading overboot

SANTIR
a. A stimulating snuff
b. A subsidiary mast
c. The dulcimer

SMAKE
a. To scent or smell
b. A thatcher's comb
c. To trick or deceive

Answers on page 15